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INSIDE



Business Growth

Treasury Secretary John Snow declared Tuesday "America's economy is getting stronger every day," although he said more must be done to foster long-term business growth.

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Make Peace

Former President Clinton called on China and the United States to overcome their differences on trade, saying the two powers must learn to work together to conquer common threats like AIDS, terrorism and global warming.

Page 17



Wandering Tigers

Nearly five years after a tiger found wandering the suburbs triggered a crackdown on a private sanctuary for big cats, animal welfare workers began removing 24 Bengal tigers for shipment to a Texas sanctuary.

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Tourists are coming back

MVA reports growth in October 2003 arrivals

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

Visitor arrivals to the Northern Marianas last month indicated that the islands' tourism industry is beginning to regain strength following

tumultuous global events that adversely impacted the travel sector across the globe.

For the second consecutive month, the number of tourists who visited the CNMI increased in October compared to the monthly figures last year. Last month's arrival tally of 38,512 was just 0.38

percent shy of October 2000's 40,400 total—before the 9-11 tragedy pillaged economies worldwide.

The Marianas Visitors Authority reported that last month's total reflected a 6.32-percent increase compared to 36,224-arrival figure in October 2002.

The MVA anticipates tourism's

performance to improve this fiscal year, with more airline seats becoming available to ferry tourists from the CNMI's premier market—Japan.

The MVA cited Northwest Airlines' inauguration of direct flights between Saipan and Nagoya, Japan, which is the CNMI's second largest source of Japanese tourists. It also cited JALways commencement of new daily services from

See TOURISTS on Page 8



LIBERTY DONES

WORLD EDUCATION WEEK

Gov. Juan N. Babauta, standing fifth from right, poses with students, educators, and diplomatic officials shortly after signing a proclamation designating Nov. 17-22 as International Education Week and Cultural Day Wednesday at the NMC. Among those in photo are NMC president Kenneth Wright, standing sixth right, Board of Regents officials led by chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, standing third right, Japanese Consul Takeo Saito, seated right, Philippine Consul-General Wilfredo Maximo, standing fourth right. Also included are NMC Associated Student president Kay Fitial, seated center, and visiting American World University Maxine Asher, seated second left, NMC vice president Chas Algaier, fifth left back, and NMC community program services and Pacific Gateway marketing director Tony Deleon Guerrero, standing right.

Babauta seeks increased military presence

By MARIAN A. MARAYA
REPORTER

Gov. Juan N. Babauta is looking to confirm if the U.S. Pacific Command has the Northern Marianas in mind amid reported plans by Pacom to close or downsize its military base in Okinawa.

The chief executive is poised to raise the subject as part of the agenda in his Nov. 24 meeting with Admiral Thomas Fargo, the Pacom commander.

"[The meeting] pertains to the potential and possible closure, if not downsizing, of the base in Okinawa. If they did that, then where would they move

the troops to? They have been kind of looking at the CNMI as a potential place for those movements, but we're not really sure. And of course, a lot of this they're planning is still confidential, not from our standpoint but for them. Until they are sure what they want to do," the governor told reporters yesterday.

Press Secretary Peter A. Callaghan confirmed that with different troop movements planned for the Pacific, the administration needs to know if the CNMI is being looked at as a possible host to a permanent military base.

"Admiral Fargo is the commanding

See BABAUTA on Page 8

NMC is a step closer to getting \$8M USDA loan

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development has approved the pre-application of Northern Marianas College for an \$8 million direct loan.

NMC president Kenneth Wright and finance director David Atalig said they just received "the good news" from the USDA headquarters on Guam.

Wright relayed the information to Gov. Juan N. Babauta during yesterday's

See NMC on Page 8

Funding woes snag dump closure

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

Nine months after the gates of the Puerto Rico dumpsite were closed to the public, the CNMI government remains beset with funding problems to implement the facility's final closure that is compliant with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards.

EPA officials who are currently on-island disclosed this, admitting that the CNMI government has not met the current compliance schedule the federal agency had imposed regarding the Commonwealth's solid waste violation.

But John McCarroll and Pat Young, the EPA's Pacific Islands Office manager and CNMI program manager,

See FUNDING on Page 8

2003 Look Back

THE SENATE DEBACLE

The soap opera up on Capitol Hill

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
ASSISTANT EDITOR



This was the year when Mr. Nice Guy took a backseat at the Senate. Civility, manners, and exemplary deportment went flying out the window, as senators went at each other with unsheathed claws, the simmering mélange of uneasy alliances, unmet expectations, and distrust among its members needing just a single spark to ignite the conflagration.

That single spark was provided middle of this year by the stunning convictions of two veteran lawmakers—majority bloc senators Jose Dela Cruz and Ricardo S. Atalig—on charges of defrauding the CNMI government by providing fictitious jobs to their relatives. The untimely departure of the two senators created a critical vacuum in the five-member leadership bloc and placed the four-member minority in the ascendancy, setting the stage for one of the most bizarre incidents in the history of the Commonwealth’s Legislature and nearly paralyzing the legislative process for several critical measures. But that’s getting ahead of the story.

Much like any other crisis, what happened at the Senate this year was no overnight development. It was merely the product of two years of unreconciled differences and spats between the majority and the minority bloc, all building up to its inexorable climax. Smarting from what it perceived as deliberate acts by the majority to exclude the minority bloc from the Senate loop, members of the minority—Sens. Reyes, David M. Cing, and Ramon S. Guerrero—time and

again complained that they are being intentionally kept in the dark by the majority over proposed measures or actions and that they are always being passed over during leadership meetings. Manglona and his group—Sens. Joaquin G. Adriano, Diego M. Songao, Thomas P. Villagomez, Atalig, and Dela Cruz—all denied this, saying the door is always open for the minority to come in and participate in leadership meetings. That never happened.

Then there was their sharp differences in the interpretation of the suspensions of Atalig and Dela Cruz. At that time, the two have not been convicted yet but the minority was insisting that the two should already be suspended and have, in fact, already been suspended with the adoption of appropriate resolutions. The majority differed, saying the two could only be suspended once the court finds them guilty. Before they could resolve the matter, the court found the two senators guilty.

Despite this, Atalig still insisted—with the tacit agreement of the Senate majority—that he is still a member of the upper chamber, to which the minority vociferously objected. By this time, although still officially part of the leadership, Villagomez had effectively transferred his loyalties to the minority, prompting the bloc to argue that four trumps the three remaining members of the majority. Whiffs of a power struggle and a possible leadership coup started circulating within the narrow halls of the Legislature.

Everything came to a head on Aug 27, 2003, during a regular session by the chamber. That fateful day started ominously enough, when Cing stood up to castigate the leadership and accuse it of lying when it claimed that it never received the papers of Commonwealth Utilities



Manglona Reyes

Corp. board member nominee Rufina Miles. As it later turned out, Miles was confirmed to the board. Manglona then called for a short recess and left the building, together with Songao and Adriano.

When the three failed to show up 30 minutes later, the three-member minority, together with Villagomez, reconvened the session and effectively shanghaied the leadership, claiming that, with their superior number, they are now THE majority bloc in the Senate. To seal their hold on the leadership, the four chose Reyes to be the new Senate president and met in several sessions during which they passed several critical measures, including the proposed \$213-million Fiscal Year 2004 spending plan. All this time, Manglona was angrily pointing out in the media that what the four were doing was illegal and contrary to the legal interpretation of what a majority consists of.

With the new majority ignoring him, Manglona was forced to bring the matter to court, asking the CNMI Superior Court to declare the Aug. 27 session and subsequent sessions illegal. He also asked Gov. Juan N. Babauta to freeze all Senate committee accounts, to which the governor acceded, although he said he is not doing this at the behest of Manglona.

On Nov. 18, Judge Kenneth Govendo threw out Manglona’s suit on the ground of judicial abstention, upholding the constitutional doctrine on the separation of the three branches of government. He also urged the two Senate factions to work out among themselves solutions to the issues raised before the court. Fat chance of that happening.

The decision left opposing factions with conflicting interpretations on the legal implications of judicial abstention, with the new majority claiming that the decision means their Aug. 27 actions were valid. Manglona’s camp had a different interpretation, saying the court effectively left the issues for the Senate to resolve.

Seeing that matters could not be resolved with finality unless he has the numbers to back him up, Manglona waited until the holding of the special elections on Tinian and Rota in Oct. and Nov. to find the replacements for Atalig and Dela Cruz. Once the results were in, Manglona aggressively wooed the support of the two new senators—Paterno Hocog of Rota and Joseph Mendiola of Tinian—and got them, enabling him to regain his presidency.

As part of his first official action as the resurgent Senate leader, Manglona suspended all four members of the minority during a session on Rota last Nov. 17 due to the four senators’ alleged violations of CNMI Constitution and the Official Rules of the Senate. Cing, Reyes, and Guerrero were suspended effective for one month, while Villagomez was imposed another separate suspension for 45 days for his alleged involvement in a scheme to defraud the CNMI government—the same case that jailed Atalig and Dela Cruz.

The four threatened to go to court but cooler heads, including that of Babauta, managed to prevail over Manglona, who later decided to shorten the suspensions to just 15 days.

With Manglona’s hold on the Senate leadership now firmly back in place, everything has gone back to normal at the upper chamber, which means back to the usual bickering and political maneuvering. With a lame duck Senate in place, the public cannot expect much in way of new legislation making it before January’s inauguration. So just sit back and relax and wait for the new 14th Senate, which promises to be as entertaining as this year’s batch.

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80-20 INITIATIVE

‘Understandable but unrealistic, impractical’

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 80-20 proposition is an understandable offshoot of some people’s frustration over the shenanigans at the Senate but it fails on two counts: the demands of reality and practical application.

These, in a gist, were the sentiments separately expressed by both House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente when sought for their comments on the proposed initiative that would authorize senatorial districts to retain 80 percent of their revenue within their respective districts, remitting only 20 percent to the general fund.

Hofschneider, however, said there is a distinct possibility that the initiative would go through, considering that about eight out of 10 persons he has talked with are in support of the proposition. “I think it’s all generated by the recent debacle as to the senatorial fight over appropriation,” he added.

He conceded that the 80-20 initiative would relieve a lot of the frustrations over the increasing financial burden borne by the Third Senatorial District—Saipan—for the Second and First Senatorial Districts.

Benavente, on the other

hand, expressed belief that the initiative will not work, describing it as ridiculous. “I understand the frustration but we have a Commonwealth here that we have established and to require that [80-20 initiative] for Rota and Tinian—and maybe the future of the other islands—would be ridiculous because it will not work,” he said.

Benavente pointed out that CNMI officials cannot take these kinds of actions based on their disagreement with one another. “We need to make decisions based on what’s best for the entire Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, not what’s best for any particular individual.”

He expressed hope that those behind the initiative do not mislead the people of Saipan as to the practicability of the proposal. While the proposal sounds good for the people of Saipan who are frustrated with the incidents at the Senate, he said there is a need to better educate the public as to the impact the 80-20 initiative would mean to the people of Rota and Tinian.

Hofschneider also pointed out that there are certain services mandated on the CNMI government that it must fulfill—regardless of emotions and personal opinions—paramount

of which are free and compulsory education, health care, and public safety for the general population of the Commonwealth.

By restricting the amount of money flowing into the general fund to 20 percent, Hofschneider said this could paralyze basic services not just on Tinian and Rota but also on Saipan.

“No matter how you feel about it, the Constitution mandates this government to provide this three essential services, and the central government is to provide the funding adequately,” he said.

If the proposition does go through, Hofschneider anticipates an accounting nightmare for the CNMI government. As an example, he cited the \$8-million bond payment obligations of the government. “If 80-20 goes through, do we then take 80 percent of the overall bond obligation—the annual payment—and pay only for those that had to do with the Third Senatorial District? And if Rota and Tinian does not have enough to pay for the CIP matching in the \$60-million bond, and if they are also entitled to the land compensation, do we proportionately transfer that annual payment to them and have them pay under their 80 percent of the payments?”

jollibee

arc

Random curfew checks continue

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety raided several hotspots believed to be haven of criminal activities in light of the beefed up enforcement of curfew hours.

According to DPS spokesperson Sgt. Tom Blas, Jr., authorities are zeroing in on areas where criminal activities are frequently reported such as Garapan, Koblerville, Chalan Kanoa, and Susupe, adding that the operation will continue as long as curfew hours are in effect.

“We will continue our operations against curfew violators as long as curfew hours are in effect. We will randomly check on areas with high incidents of crimes and the operations will be done simultaneously,” he explained.

Blas warned parents and guardians of minors to keep track of their children since appropriate charges would also be slapped against them. “We would like to inform the parents and guardians of minors to be aware of the curfew hours. If these kids are still loitering during the curfew hours, they would be arrested,” he stressed.

The DPS said that minors who are 15 and under should not be out on the street between 9pm and 5am Mondays through Thursdays, and from 10pm to 5am Fridays through Sundays.

For minors 16 years old and above, curfew hours are from 10pm to 5am Mondays through Thursdays, and from 11pm to 5am Fridays through Sundays. During these times, minors should not be seen loitering outside.

Anti-littering signs installed

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

The Coastal Resources Management Office has installed close to 50 beach signs on Saipan, Tinian and Rota as part of the campaign against illegal dumping.

Benny Pangelinan, coastal resources coordinator at the CRMO, said the project was made possible through a \$26,140-grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Pangelinan said the project is a message about the government’s stance on environmental protection. The signs are installed on Saipan’s popular beaches.

“A clean environment is one of the CNMI’s major attractions—it brings in more tourists and, at the same time, helps deter crime,” he said. “The CRMO is continuing [its] public education program to inform the people of [its] vital role in ensuring that our islands remain beautiful and clean through these newly imple-

During an operation conducted over the weekend, authorities arrested at least 15 minors for curfew violations. The operations were made in response to complaints of increasing criminal activities involving juveniles.

Members of the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau, Thief Apprehension Select Coalition and Juvenile Unit surveyed several areas in Chalan Kanoa, Garapan, Susupe, and Koblerville, during which several minors were picked up due to various offenses that include court orders and curfew violations, as well as possession of tobacco and alcoholic beverages.

“The presence of these youngsters out on the street increased, resulting in the rising number of crimes involving minors. The operations were launched to help curb crimes committed by juveniles,” Blas said.

He noted that the operations were also intended to educate youngsters on the curfew law, as well as deter the youths’ involvement in illegal activities. “Many youngsters have been seen late in the night loitering around establishments and villages.”

Blas cited the need to intensify the information campaign on the existence of the curfew law, adding that a great number of minors are not aware that such a law exists.

In light of the ongoing crackdown against curfew violators, the DPS warned parents, legal guardians, sponsors and any adult in custody of a minor, especially those with conditions from the court, to be extra aware of the curfew hours.

mented signs designed to stop littering in our beaches.”

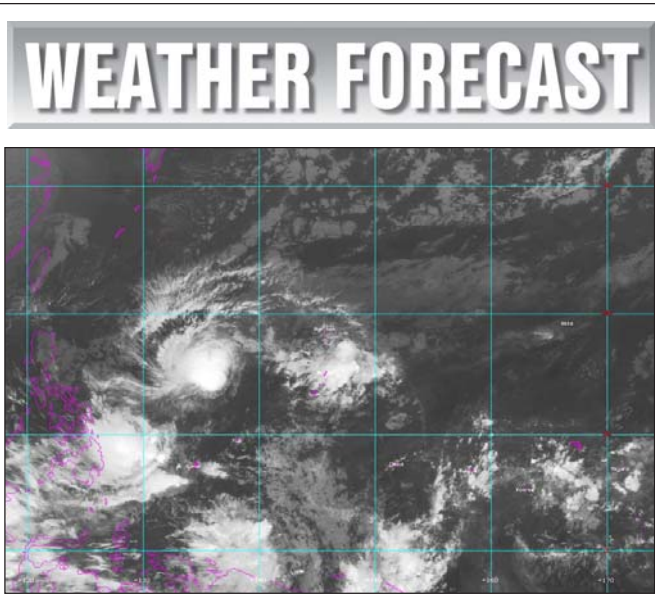
Pangelinan said 31 signs are up on Saipan. Seven signs have been put up on Tinian, while eight others stand on Rota.

The signs advise the public to dispose of its trash in the trash bins. The message has translations in several languages, including Chamorro, Carolinian, Filipino, Japanese, Korean and Chinese.

On Saipan, the CRMO installed the signs at the following beach sites: Kilili, Micro, San Jose, Susupe, Coral Ocean Point, Paupau, among others.

“We’d like you to keep in mind that dirty areas repel tourists and encourage criminal activity. So please, put your litter where they belong—in the trash cans,” the CRMO said.

Earlier, the Division of Environmental Quality also disclosed putting up beach signs. These, however, inform the public of the marine water quality of the beach sites where they stand.



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 A.M., DECEMBER 23, 2003
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends from 5N130E to a weak circulation near 5N135E then ends near 10N139E. Strong low-level convergence along the trough is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of Palau and Yap in an area bounded by 18N130E to 19N140E to 14N140E to 6N134E to 5N130E then back to 17N130E...and across the Mariana Islands and Chuuk between the equator and 18N from 140E to 154E. Further east...trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers north of Kosrae between 5N and 9N from 161E to 164E...and across southern half of the Marshall Islands between the equator and 10N from 166E to 180. Low clouds are found about 300 miles north and northwest of a dissipating shear line from 25N180E to 19N145E.



SAIPAN AND TINIAN
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 80. Lows near 70.



GUAM AND ROTA
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 20 mph. Highs near 80. Lows near 70.



PALAU
Partly cloudy with scattered showers.
Winds: Southeast at 10 kt.



POHNPEI
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
Winds: East at 10 kt.



YAP AND ULITHI
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 10 kt.



KOSRAE
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10 kt. or less



CHUUK
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.



MAJURO
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.

	CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
	Auckland	Partly Cloudy	71F (22C)	53F (12C)
	Beijing	Sunny	49F (9C)	23F (-5C)
	Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	75F (24C)	64F (18C)
	Honolulu	Sunny	83F (28C)	71F (22C)
	London, England	Cloudy	52F (11C)	41F (5C)
	Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	64F (18C)	49F (9C)
	Manila	Partly Cloudy	85F (29C)	71F (22C)
	Melbourne	Sunny	76F (24C)	59F (15C)
	Miami	Partly Cloudy	77F (25C)	66F (19C)
	New York City	Partly Cloudy	44F (7C)	32F (0C)
	Osaka	Partly Cloudy	52F (11C)	36F (2C)
	Paris	Cloudy	46F (8C)	36F (2C)
	Pusan	Sunny	59F (15C)	43F (6C)
	Rome	Sunny	44F (7C)	32F (2C)
	Salem, Oregon	Partly Cloudy	46F (8C)	34F (1c)
	San Francisco	Rain	56F (13C)	44F (7C)
	Seoul	Partly Cloudy	48F (9C)	32F (0C)
	Tokyo, Japan	Partly Cloudy	54F (12C)	43F (6C)
	Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	44F (7C)	28F (-2C)

Bomb detonation closes Marpi on Friday

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

The Marpi area will be closed to traffic and the general public on Friday, when the U.S. Navy and the Emergency Management Office detonate over 1,000 pounds of World War II ordnance.

In a public advisory, the EMO said the closure of the Marpi area would be from 8am to 4pm. The scheduled detonation begins by 10am.

“The only area that will not be closed off will be Suicide Cliff as that will be the main viewing point for the detonation. The public’s access to Suicide Cliff will be allowed only at the road leading up to the Far East Broadcasting antenna into Suicide Cliff for viewing purposes,” the EMO said.

The Department of Public Safety would set up security posts at the area to control traffic movement, the EMO said.

The EMO had also scheduled detonation activities on both Friday and Saturday, but Director Rudolfo Pua said the second day of the activity would most likely be a mopping-up operation.

Pua disclosed that over 1,000 lbs. of assorted ordnance would be detonated Friday, including projectiles, mortars, grenades and blasting caps. The EMO will also dispose of fireworks that have been stored at the agency’s bunker in Marpi.

The Navy’s Explosive Ordnance Disposal team from Guam already arrived on-island, meeting with EMO staff yesterday. All is set for the

activity, but Pua had said the Navy would decide if the schedule would be cancelled should it rain on Friday.

Designated as detonation site is the Laderan Laggun Cliffline located south of the Marpi landfill. “The grid coordinates

are 15 degrees 16.11 minutes North and 145 degrees 49.26 minutes East and 5,000 feet above sea level.”

The EMO warned the public—including tour operators, commercial pilots and fishermen—to stay at least one mile away from the site when the detonation activities are ongoing.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had issued

the EMO an emergency permit pursuant to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act to allow the detonation and open burning of the ordnance, saying that the wastes pose an imminent threat to human health and the environment.

Foul play ruled out in worker’s death

Authorities ruled out foul play as the cause of death of a nonresident worker who was discovered dead inside his workplace in Garapan two weeks ago, police disclosed yesterday.

PO3 Tom Blas Jr., Department of Public Safety spokesperson, said that Dr. Aurelio Espinola conducted an autopsy on the body of Fang Yue-Sheng who was found dead in front of his computer inside the Linson Garment building last Oct. 31.

Yue-Sheng was found injured around 12am of Oct. 31 and was immediately brought to the Commonwealth Health Center where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

According to the autopsy report released by Espinola, Yue-Sheng suffered from ruptured splenic aneurisms in his pancreas area.

The autopsy was conducted to shed light on the circumstances surrounding Yue-Sheng’s death. He was at his jobsite when the incident happened.

According to the report, he was noticed slumped in front of his computer and his co-workers tried to revive him but had little response. (*Edith G Alejandro*)

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

I heard you. I think.

Although you'd never know it listening to television or reading corporate reports, clear language remains an important means of communication. Mollycoddling the obsequious obfuscators who leverage an extensible repository of blather is a continuous threat to understanding what's really happening anywhere, regardless of critical causality.

Nowhere was this more evident than in the Enron and other corporate accounting scandals where really impressive-sounding terms were sprinkled, then poured and ultimately shoveled into corporate public statements.

Drawing on its own internal corporate synergies and creative visualizations, a team at Deloitte Consulting has invested nine months imagineering a dictionary of some 350 "bullwords," phrases and words that often indicate less an attempt to communicate ideas than an effort to obliterate them. It then developed a computer program that can be applied much like computer spell-checking systems to, say, a company's annual report.

Bullfighter, as the program is called, detects bullwords and jargon-jammed passages that are free of meaning. Users then can rate the company. Too many bullwords tips investors that there's more being hidden than revealed. They then can put their money into a more transparent enterprise.

"That's a good indicator of the linkage between clear and straight communications and business performance, including the issue of transparency and trust," said Brian Fugere, a Deloitte partner. In short, Fugere and his no-nonsense team have had it with repurposeable, value-added knowledge capital and robust, leverageable mindshares. It was truly incentivizing to expunge such talk from the entire team's bandwidth and envisioner a day when clear talk will be triumphalistic.

Applied to 30 gigantean companies, Deloitte found Home Depot the best on clarity, while computer hardware and software companies were the most graveolent and contraindicated. In Enron statements, Bullfighter detected arcane verbosity and verbal fog deepening with the company's troubles.

Of course, users of the program, downloadable exempt from cost at www.dc.com/bullfighter, might also apply Bullfighter to the ritual utterances of indecipherable political verbiage that seem likely in coming calendrical rotations. Rather like a consumer's guide to flatulent phrasings and ideational argumentations by disputatious and controversialistic oppositionists. And then voters could expunge the wordy perpetrator from their intended balloting patterns.

Clearly, newspapers are free of obese verbosity and every minute hold clarity and conciseness as achievable endpoints. Thanks to Bullfighter's externalization and to similar programs yet developed for other areas, the eternal struggle against wordy obtuseness may gain valuable yardage, marching down the field to the end zone of better communications.

Now, that's a new paradigm.

Los Angeles Times



Generic insights from singular folk

If you're a working journalist, it's hard not to be amused by Greg Packer, the Long Island, N.Y., highway maintenance worker who recently was revealed as the ever-present "man on the street" in scores of news stories around the country.

Packer makes a point of showing up at assorted media events and staking out a prominent spot so that he'll be noticed and interviewed by members of the media. According to a recent Wall Street Journal story, during the week that Hillary Clinton's autobiography hit the bookstores, Packer showed up at several book signings and wound up being quoted a dozen times in various newspapers, as well as being interviewed for television.

One reporter's Internet search uncovered at least 100 Packer quotes. He has been quoted on stories as diverse as the latest "Star Wars" movie, this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade and the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Packer occasionally hits the jackpot by talking to Associated Press reporters and having his remarks circulated to news organizations around the country.

His comments are bland and his insights are negligible. When waiting to see the pope at Giants Stadium in 1995, he told a Newsday reporter, "I believe it'll be inspirational and something I'll never forget." For a Newsday story about Clinton's new book, he said the senator "is a smart woman." But reporters are desperate for man-on-the-street stuff, and because Packer makes himself available he could well be the most widely quoted regular Joe in history.

He admits he craves attention, telling The New York Times he needs to be quoted because "I just need to show people I'm alive."

His sound-bite scam is a kind of one-up on us journalists. We seek out quotes from ordinary men and women to decorate our stories, give them an air of authenticity and prove that we were there.

For facts, reasoned arguments and spin, we go to politicians, lawyers, activists and to the people whose lives are directly affected by the events and issues we cover. For emotion we look to regular folks, assuming that they are windows into how the general public thinks and feels.

Sometimes we're looking for comments that confirm what we're trying to say in the story. And we want to impress our bosses by showing that we've been out on the street and were not just loitering in our cubicles.

The fact that Greg Packer's quotes have turned up everywhere suggests that man-on-the-street interviews are worthless. As one of

By SHERYL MCCARTHY
McCarthy is a Newsday columnist.



my colleagues pointed out: "What if there's only one man!" What's more, Packer's overuse suggests that it doesn't matter whom reporters talk to, as long as they get a quote from somebody. And because Packer's so available, why not just go to him and save ourselves some shoe leather?

I think the reason Packer is quoted so often is that journalists hate man-on-the-street interviews. It's demeaning to have to scan a crowd of total strangers, searching for someone who looks like he or she might have something quotable to say, and won't tell you to get lost. What a relief to spot a Packer at the head of the line, ready and eager to give you a sound bite.

Before I write off such interviews as a total waste of time, however, let me say that occasionally they offer us a perspective that surprises us, that gives us some real insight, that points us toward the truth of the story we're trying to tell.

Like the woman in Macy's years ago who, when asked her opinion of a wealthy and powerful real-estate mogul and his then-pregnant mistress, whose antics were being followed religiously by the media, dismissed them both as "trash." There was the man outside the Times Square record store on Sept. 11, 2001, who, asked the meaning of that day's horrible events, said quietly: "I think the United States needs to think about how it treats other people." And there was the guy I met at an exhibit of the proposed designs for rebuilding Ground Zero, who pointed to the design with the tallest building and said, "That one. It'll show the people who bombed us that we're not only back, but we're better."

Sometimes by being out on the street, mingling in the crowd, hearing what people say, we're able to catch what's in the wind, and it changes the whole direction of a story. That's more valuable than anything we pick up in the newsroom—provided we avoid the Greg Packers of the world.

Letter to the Editor

Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.

An open letter to the governor

Dear Governor Babauta: It is my hope that you would recognize this letter concerning the information listed below, which I also hope will merit an inquiry from your office into the unusual and questionable contract award of RFP02-THC-0052 to Saipan Employment Services & Agency better known as SEAS Inc. I have attempted twice previously to schedule a meeting with you, but to no avail, so I figured maybe this letter will catch your attention.

I have reviewed a copy of SEAS Inc.'s proposal and compared it with another losing bidder whose proposal was \$6,000 lower. And in reviewing both proposals, I have identified questionable concerns pertaining to SEAS Inc.'s bid that are contradictory not only to the P&S regulation with respect to the evaluation and selection process for such an award, but also that the award of such contract to a much higher bidder, which will, in effect, cost the CNMI government an additional \$6,000 per annum.

For example, RFP02-THC-0052's award to SEAS Inc. over a bidder whose bid is \$6,000 lower: Most questionable of all is that not only was the other bidder's proposal lower, but that the losing bidder even offered to make a \$5,000 scholarship contribution to the Tinian Scholarship Program on a yearly basis for the duration of the contract period. SEAS Inc. never made any such offer in their proposal. It would have been an offer that would be beneficial to the Tinian community, especially our youths. But still, SEAS Inc. was awarded the contract over a much lower bidder with far better offers that would have benefited the Tinian Scholarship Program, not to mention saving the CNMI government an additional \$6,000 in yearly expense.

This is not to mention the fact that SEAS Inc. was in the local papers' front-pages recently due to the company nurses' complaint that they weren't receiving their salary. The nurses even came out to seek the assistance of your legal counsel to intervene on their behalf. SEAS Inc., instead, blamed the Commonwealth Health Center, which the company said failed to pay it on time for the services it offered to the CHC. But the CHC denied this and stood firm on its claim that the payments to SEAS Inc. were made on time and that it has no reason to pass the buck on to the CHC.

There are a lot of other things questionable about this issue and this particular company.

Jack T. Quitugua
Dandan, Saipan

A land of fears aplenty

Traveling to the North American continent to attend a weeklong conference in southern California of the California-Pacific Annual Conference (CalPAC) of the United Methodist Church (UMC) has revealed a quiet yet dramatic change in our lives here in this the United States of America.

At the Saipan International Airport, just clearing the distance between the airport departure sidewalks to the departure airline walkway meant suspending what we once took for granted as our right to privacy. The layers of security measures imposed on everyone, from luggage rummage at check-in to finally getting to one's plane seat, to my mind, is a dramatic case of overkill on security. Not only that, one gets the sense that we are harassing the bank depositors after the vault had been looted in the night.

But the physical inconvenience of opening and closing suitcases, emptying pockets of coins and keys, taking off finger ring and watch, tripping off the alarm each time a steel toed shoe come through the security arches, getting one's luggage locks busted for failing to heed the new ruling to keep one's luggage locks unlocked, are nothing compared to the shock of a new reality. The political party and the President who promised us a leaner federal government bureaucracy, has stealthily created a gargantuan government bureaucracy, the Transportation Security Authority (TSA).

Something about the atmosphere established by TSA personnel gives one the creepy feeling that I have to prove I am not guilty. Presumption of innocence until proven guilty had taken a vacation. Once passed the security checks, one then voluntarily scans the crowd to check on lurking miscreants, which only heightens one's fears that any of these strangers taking the same transport I am in may just be one who intends to do us harm!

The hype on the global tentacles of terrorism is everywhere. For sure, there are valid reasons to be cautious about our body's health. Why, a male Caucasian suspected terrorist under Al-Qaida payroll was just arrested on suspicion of planning to wreak havoc to highly symbolic locations.

The mysterious SARS is still crippling tourist-based economies elsewhere, and sending exposed medical practitioners to their graves. A monkeypox virus has just sent shivers to many a Wisconsin spine. We still have the West Nile virus. HIV/AIDS virus, though de-fanged in our overloaded fear threshold bins, remains a constant threat to at-risk behaviors.

Our emotions are equally assaulted by current events. A father in Maryland kills his two daughters and self to spite his Japanese wife. An accused suspected killer of wife and unborn child gets fan mails. A next-door child brings a gun to school. Youth of our acquaintance sells drugs.

Make it so!

A lot of lessons about leadership can be observed from watching reruns of Star Trek. Captain Kirk could assess any situation with his quick wit and keen insight. He was always ready to take action, and willing to put himself in harm's way before sacrificing any of his team.

In contrast, Captain Jean-Luc Picard would gather input from his staff and allow them to make suggestions. When all the options were considered, he would then decide on a course of action and boldly state: "Make it so." He had confidence in those who earned his trust, and he was continually developing the leadership abilities of the people who served with him.

Both Kirk and Picard were effective in their own rights, yet they exhibited different ways of dealing with a situation. Your problems, as a manager, do not involve battling aliens who are laboring to rule with their forces, but they may involve helping your alien workers battle labor and immigration as they enforce their rules.

Your value as a manager will be tied to your ability to get those you supervise to get things done on time, on quality, and within budget. We are going to present a style that would be more aligned with the leadership of Captain Picard – well thought out, deliberate, and one that involves the input of key individuals. Here are seven steps you can take to improve your ability to solve problems and enlist the support of others:

1. Understand the problem situation. Ask: "Do we know everything about this problem situation that we need to know?" The group needs a shared understanding of the problem before an attempt is made to solve it. Many problem-solving efforts are ineffective because everyone does not see the problem in the same way. Develop clearly understood statements of the problems and issues that everyone can focus on to resolve.

2. Clarify the purpose to be served. Ask: "What are we trying to do here, and is this what we should be doing?" If this question is not answered, the group may expend their energy on something that should not have been started. It is vital that the group arrives at a shared understanding of the goal to be achieved.

3. Identify obstacles that will hinder your progress. Ask: "What are the specific things that would keep us from achieving our goal?" Involve the people who can help you resolve the problem, and have them list all the possible obstacles that could slow or stop your progress. Those hidden obstacles can become major speed bumps for your team to overcome. If properly anticipated, they can be avoided or minimized.

By **JAIME R. VERGARA**

Strictly a personal view. Vergara writes a weekly column for the Saipan Tribune.



Police cracked down on an innocent 6-year-old's lemonade stand in Naples, Florida, after a neighbor complained. We are clearly divesting ourselves of trust and confidence in our neighbors.

Our leaders' emerging image that he and his Cabinet loosely handled facts and intelligence reports prior the war against Iraq is becoming appalling.

But more crippling is the deflation of our spirits as our institutions of faith, love and hope succumb to despair and cynicism. Here in the Church pews at American Baptist-related Redlands University, the gathered Methodists have awakened to the fact that their denomination's stagnant membership's mean age is 56 as compared with 33 for the nation. Such reality has very specific implications to health care, particularly of its retired clergy families who, not unlike the rest of the nation, are living longer than when their health insurance and retirement packages were first configured. As membership declines, revenues become scarce, and health care premiums rise, cost of maintaining personnel has become the focus of passionate discourse rather than in strategizing to give flesh and substance to the vision and mission, the spirit of the congregations.

The beleaguered Roman Catholic Church's Cardinal Mahoney stumbles after each revelation of yet another ethical violation of one of His Eminence's pedophilic clergy. Mainline Protestant denominations have also gone into defensive trenches to make sure that their clergy mirrors the pristine reputation of Claudia Procula, Pontius Pilate's wife. Even here in CalPAC normally staid UMC's clergy ranks, one of its previous ethnic poster boys had to retire prematurely on allegations of sexual misconduct.

Unfortunately, in our zeal to take cover, due process, the rule of evidence, and the practice of truth telling are quickly sacrificed.

In a society that has created the comfort zone as a measurable and required quality of typical human existence, including life in the military service, our sense of body, mind and spiritual comfort zones are in the grip of incapacitating fear. With doubts on the integrity of the Presidential Office to the Parish confessional, who is there left to trust?

By **RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS**

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is the owner of Positively Outrageous Results. They have consulted with over 400 businesses in 40 different industries. For better business results go to BizResults.biz to read previous articles.



4. Determine the best actions to overcome obstacles. Ask: "What are the best possible actions or alternatives available to change, improve, or overcome this problem and its associated obstacles?" Draw on the experience, knowledge, and judgment of your best-informed people to generate a list of actions that can help solve the problem, and then choose the very best ideas.

5. Determine and organize your resources. Ask: "What are the specific resources of people, time, money, equipment, and technology to allow us to achieve our goal?" Count the cost of what it will take to achieve each action, and develop alternative sources, if necessary, to ensure your team has the needed resources to accomplish the goal.

6. Create a workable plan. Ask: "What is the best possible plan of actions to resolve this problem and realize our goal?" After selecting the best actions and organizing your resources, arrange those actions into a time sequence to form a plan of implementation. List the possible obstacles, and how they will be dealt with if encountered. Do not be satisfied with just creating a rough draft, but continue to fine-tune your plan into something that will encourage people to take action.

7. Communicate your plan to gain agreement. Ask: "How can we communicate our plan to have the greatest impact possible and gain maximum support?" Identify the audience whom the plan should be shared with, and then share the logic and data used to support your analysis of the situation and why you feel the best direction is communicated in your plan.

After all of this is done, there is one more step that is vitally important. All the plans in the world will not help you realize results until someone takes action and implements the steps of the plan. Referring back to Captain Picard, strong leadership will be required to put the plan into action and "make it so!"

Saipan Tribune

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Guamanians line up for war compensation

At 76, Nicolas Pangelinan has no trouble remembering and talking about how he suffered when Japanese forces occupied Guam during World War II.

"One time someone caught one of our workers sleeping," said Pangelinan, recalling how he and other Guam residents were forced to work in the fields. "So we were all forced to line up and slap each other. Oh, the turmoil we had to go through."

The Agana Heights resident's story is one of many that the Guam War Claims Review Commission, which opened its office at the Chamorro Village in Hagatña, wants to know about.

About 20,000 people lived on Guam during the Japanese occupation more than a half-century ago.

As one of the estimated 10,000 still alive, Pangelinan can visit the Chamorro Village office and fill out the commission's questionnaire for survivors.

"What we're trying to do is get a census, what kind of injuries were suffered by the people of Guam," said Benjamin J. Cruz, former justice of the Guam Supreme Court and member of the review commission.

The focus of the questionnaire, in accordance with the Guam War Claims

Review Commission Act, is to discover instances of infliction of death, personal injury, forced labor, forced march and internment. Forced prostitution and rape would fall under personal injury.

After the questionnaires are turned in, public hearings will take place at the Guam Legislature on Dec. 8 and 9 to allow war survivors to talk about their experience.

As for survivors and their relatives off island, the commission will send out letters to Guam clubs in the mainland, and ask them to help spread the word about the commission's effort. Cruz said that in the last Census, there were about 33,000 Chamorros in California.

"Depending on the responses we get, we may have a hearing in each of the states," Cruz said.

According to Pacific Daily News files, Japan invaded Guam in 1941. For the next three years, residents were subjected to atrocities including torture and internment, files state.

A draft commission report for the U.S. Secretary of the Department of the Interior is due May 9, 2004. On June 9, 2004, the final report will be presented to Congress.

A decision will be made whether there was a disparity in compensation.

Cruz said Congress has asked for a report to see if reparations need to be made.

"Hopefully because they're the ones asking us to do it, they'll be more willing to address it," Cruz said.

It may be difficult for some survivors to talk about their experiences, said Tony Unpingco, commission member and former speaker of the Guam Legislature. The commission will respect anonymity requests.

"One person was telling me, as soon as someone brings up the war, the first thing in his mind would be all the dead people in front," Unpingco said.

Pangelinan said he would testify before Congress if that means his family could receive compensation for the atrocities he and his family went through.

"I wish they could put me up in Washington, D.C., and talk to them. We suffered during the Japanese occupation," he said.

Cruz said, for the sake of the survivors and their children, he wishes for a speedy process.

"I hope we can deal with reparations once and for all before everyone passes," Cruz said. "And they can go peacefully knowing that it's been addressed." (PDN/PIR)

CNMI last month, although the figure was actually 25 percent lower than October 2002's 7,297.

"Since February 2003, visitors from Korea had declined due to the termination of the Korean Airlines' direct flights, compounded by the Iraqi conflict and SARS outbreak," the MVA said. "Despite the decline, the Korean market still maintained its position as the CNMI's second largest visitor market."

But the MVA assured that it has been working to alleviate the situation following the pullout of Korean Airlines flights. The MVA said it has been stimulating travel demand from Korea by working with industry partners in the Asian country. It cited the October visit of some 1,200 individuals from Yoon's English Academy, a major English education provider in Korea.

"The group, which consisted of

employees from the academy, came to Saipan in segments of 150 to 250 as their reward for their exceptional on-the-job performance at the institution. As a result, to accommodate this group, Asiana Airlines had seven extra flights for the month of October 2003," the MVA said.

The MVA said it has tied up with Asiana Airlines to come up with an incentive plan for Korean travel agents. The Volume Incentive Program commenced in September 1 and will run through December 31, 2003, the MVA said.

"In the month of October, three companies in Korea exceeded the 10 percent quota while another company exceeded the 20 percent quota. These four companies will receive advertising support from the MVA for advertising the destination and incentive tickets from the carrier to Saipan for their excellent performance," it added.

the admiral is based," said the governor.

A delegation of eight members, including Babauta, is expected to meet with Fargo on Nov. 24.

The governor's party will include Callaghan, Military and Veterans Affairs Special Assistant Frank Cepeda, CNMI's Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Edward Manibusan, two unnamed members of the House and Senate, Bishop Tomas Camacho and Public Lands commissioner Henry Hofschneider.

Wright lacked state review as mandated by the CNMI Constitution.

It means, he said, that the NMC is not authorized by the CNMI Legislature to incur a public debt.

The NMC intends to use the loan money for the renovation of La Fiesta complex (\$5 million) and for purchase of collateral equipment, costing some \$3 million.

The NMC recently purchased La Fiesta Shopping Mall in San Roque for its Pacific Gateway project, which begins in fall 2004. The program aims to attract foreign students interested in studying in the U.S.

The college entered into a \$7.5-million purchase contract of the property, using a \$3.5-million deposit from a grant through the Governor's Office. The remaining \$4 million shall be paid in 20 years at an annual payment of \$200,000 beginning Oct. 2004.



Remengesau ponders gambling bills

KOROR (Palau Horizon/PIR)—The new casino gaming bill approved by both houses of the national legislature now awaits President Tommy Remengesau's signature.

However, Remengesau maintains serious reservations regarding casino legislation.

The measure passed by lawmakers calls for a limited gambling industry in Palau.

A gaming industry, the lawmakers said, would bring high-end tourists to Palau.

It would also create benefits to the private sector by creating new jobs, infrastructure development revenues to the country and Angaur where the proposed casino would be established.

Senate Bill 6-233 proposes to allow limited gambling in Angaur under the supervision of a National Gaming Control Commission.

The commission will "closely monitor" the effects of the gaming industry to the citizens and the environment.

The commission will then determine if the gaming industry should be expanded beyond Angaur.

Lawmakers said it is about time that Palau allows casino gambling, claiming that there is no direct evidence it would cause crimes.

In May 2002, a similar bill was approved by the Olbiil Era Kelulau and was submitted to the president for signature.

Remengesau rejected the bill, citing several concerns.

The OEK said the new legislation addresses those concerns.

Solomons police suspect paid while on run

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—The Solomon Islands government reportedly has paid several million Australian dollars on false claims and allowances to

police officers, among them a suspected murderer on the run.

Solomon Islands Finance Minister Francis Zama says some of the money has been recouped, but more is expected when the auditing of government finances has been completed.

Zama confirmed that a Solomon Islands police sergeant and suspect in a high profile murder case continued to be paid for seven months while on the run. He said steps to suspend the pay of Edmond Sae, who is accused of killing former police commissioner Sir Frederick Soaki, have been taken.

Police Commissioner William Morrell says nothing was done about the discrepancy earlier because the police previously lacked the will. But he says that attitude has changed with the arrival of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands.

Meanwhile, Zama says money is being deducted from other police officers' salaries as a review continues into all police allowances during the last four years.

Fiji chiefs accused of role in coups

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Some of Fiji's chiefs have been accused of being behind the 1987 and 2000 coups.

Fiji TV says the accusation was made by one of Fiji's highest traditional chiefs, Adi Lady Lala Mara, the wife of the president deposed in the May 2000 coup, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara.

Opening a meeting of the great Council of Chiefs, Adi Lady Lala said the perpetrators of these events were greedy and were false prophets spreading uncertainty, threats and disharmony among the races in the country.

She did not name them but said chiefs should re-examine their role, especially in relation to promoting racial harmony in a multi-cultural nation like Fiji.

She said the coups had brought Fiji to its knees.

TOURISTS

From Page 1

Haneda and the resumption of flights from Kansai.

The Japanese market remained strong with 27,125 visitors, posting a 16-percent increase compared to October 2002's 23,407.

The Chinese market showed improved performance by posting a high 59 percent rise, with a total of 736 visitors last month. Considered as a surging market before the SARS outbreak caused an international travel scare, Chinese arrivals indicated a takeoff after plunging to almost zero.

Arrivals from Guam totaled 1,799, reflecting a 31-percent growth.

The CNMI's second largest tourism market—Korea—retained its rank. The market had 5,353 visitors entering the

BABAUTA

From Page 1

admiral for the entire Pacific, he's got the biggest command in the entire world. His command includes the CNMI. I'm looking forward to that because we want to know where we are in their planning scheme," said Babauta.

Also part of the briefing's agenda is the proposed use of Pagan as a long-term military training site, the increased

use of Saipan as an R&R port for the U.S. Navy and the increased use of Tinian as a Marine training.

Babauta pitched the request for a briefing with Fargo while he was in Hawaii last month, attending the Pacific Island Leaders Conference.

"He was very gracious and agreed to give me a full blown briefing and so I'm going to invite a handful of key individuals from the CNMI to join me in Honolulu for this presentation. It's going to be at the Camp Smith where

Torres earlier asked the USDA to abstain from making any loan agreement with NMC until the local community college obtains authorization from the CNMI Legislature.

"I am officially asking your office to abstain from any agreements with NMC loans or USDA being a loan guarantor, until NMC obtains CNMI legislative approval," said Rep. Stanley Torres in an Oct. 22 letter to USDA Secretary Ann M. Veneman.

Torres had cited that the NMC attempted to secure a \$10-million funding assistance from the Legislature but it was denied for lack of planning and for being highly speculative.

Further, he said that NMC advertised a \$10-million loan from private lenders, but there were no takers.

Torres had also cited that a Sept. 25 USDA pre-application form signed by

NMC

From Page 1

proclamation of Nov. 17-22 as the International Education Week and Cultural Day at the NMC.

Wright said that the loan package would allow the NMC to pay without interest in the first three years.

In a separate interview, Atalig said the NMC has up to Dec. 31, 2003 to file its application with USDA.

In its notice to NMC dated Oct. 31, 2003, the USDA-Guam said that the NMC is "eligible for funding and has a chance to compete with similar applications for other grantees."

It said a pre-conference interview with NMC is not necessary. It added that the USDA just needs to analyze in detail NMC's actual application for the funding.

This, even as Saipan Rep. Stanley

FUNDING

From Page 1

respectively, stressed that the federal agency understands the local government's financial situation, disclosing that the EPA would come up with a revised compliance schedule for the dump's final closure.

"We have been very flexible and understanding. But we want to keep the momentum going," McCarroll said. "The next thing [to do is] closing the dump in a safe way, preventing leachate from contaminating the water [Saipan Lagoon]."

The EPA officials noted that the Marpi landfill and the Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station appeared to be operating well. McCarroll said the CNMI deserves credit for putting up the multi-million-dollar Marpi landfill, which is considered as the first fully compliant non-military landfill facility in the entire Pacific.

"The important step [was] to stop putting waste to the [Puerto Rico] dump," McCarroll said.

Earlier this year, the office of Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, who chairs the CNMI Solid Waste Task Force, disclosed plans to rehabilitate the old dumpsite by capping it with soil and vegetation.

Last April 2003, Benavente's chief-of-staff, Felix M. Sablan, disclosed that the government was trying to identify funding sources to implement the plan that was estimated to cost between \$8 and \$10 million.

Sablan said the dump could even be converted onto a recreational facility like a baseball or soccer field.

He said the task force handpicked the plan from two other options, including the payment of monetary penalty the EPA might impose on the CNMI for non-compliance with its administrative order. He said the other option was the removal of the mountainous pile of trash, an undertaking that entails significant environmental concerns and permitting and high costs.

Located near the Saipan Lagoon, the dump towers over 90 feet on some 20 acres of land. In the early 1990s, EPA cited the CNMI for violations of the Clean Water Act, as leachate resulting from the dumpsite polluted the lagoon.

Sablan said the immediate need is the dump's minimum closure by stabilizing its slope facing the lagoon to prevent possible collapse and contamination of the water. But he said the CNMI would have to spend some \$4 million to do this, before taking on capping and vegetating the dump next.

Business

Orders to US factories fall 1.4 percent

Feds scrutinize investment banks

By MARCY GORDON
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Big investment banks are under renewed federal scrutiny in the multibillion-dollar Parmalat fraud case, as investigators are examining the banks' role in helping the Italian dairy giant sell bonds and questioning whether they turned a blind eye to irregularities in company books.

Following a stunning bankruptcy, the expanding case is being dubbed Europe's Enron. And the regulators' focus on Wall Street banks behind big-money deals recalls the Enron aftermath.

For the banks, "it's still a really competitive business where they're under a lot of pressure to be creative. And sometimes creative turns into illegal," said David Yellen, dean of Hofstra University Law School.

The banks can reap millions of dollars in fees from arranging sales of securities and other financial deals, an incentive that led some investment houses to aid Enron in its dodgy accounting, congressional investigators have found.

The Securities and Exchange

Commission, which charged Parmalat SpA with "one of the largest and most brazen corporate financial frauds in history" in a civil lawsuit filed Dec. 29, also is investigating the possible role of U.S. banks in the company's sales of nearly \$1.5 billion in bonds and notes to U.S. investors. Parmalat officials misled the investors by "grossly overstating the amount of the liquid assets" in its financial statements, the suit alleges.

SEC officials decline to discuss the Parmalat investigation other than to describe it as active and wide-ranging, and they will not name specific banks that may be under scrutiny.

But Lawrence West, an associate director of enforcement, noted Tuesday that, in general, when a company engages in a large accounting fraud and issues securities at the same time, "we typically look at all of the participants in the securities offerings." West flew to Italy last week to meet with investigators.

Yellen and other legal experts say the SEC could bring actions against investment banks even without evidence that bank officials were aware of Parmalat's fraud.

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

Orders to U.S. factories, after posting two months of solid increases, fell by 1.4 percent in November, the biggest decline in seven months. But analysts viewed the drop as a temporary blip in what has been an improving picture for American manufacturers.

The Commerce Department said Tuesday that while a number of sectors suffered declines in orders, the weakness was concentrated in communications, which saw orders plunge by 41.1 percent.

Demand in all categories of durable goods was down 2.5 percent, a slightly smaller drop than the 3.1 percent originally stated in a preliminary report two weeks ago. It was the biggest decrease in durable goods in more than a year.

Analysts noted that orders, especially for big-ticket items, are extremely volatile from month to month and said the November drop did nothing to shake their view that U.S. manufacturing, after suffering through the loss of 2.8 million jobs over the past three years, is on the verge of a rebound.

A second report on Tuesday showed that sentiment in the services sector of the economy, where most Americans work, remained in positive territory although the Institute of Supply Managers' non-manufacturing index took a slight dip to 58.6 last month. It

was the ninth straight month the index was signaling growth in services, represented by a reading above 50.

This indication of expansion in services followed a report last week that the supply manager's closely watched manufacturing gauge climbed to a two-decade high in December.

"The combination of the manufacturing and non-manufacturing indices indicates that economic growth is broad based and strong," said Joel Naroff, head of a Holland, Pa., forecasting firm.

Wall Street concentrated on profit-taking Tuesday after recent strong gains in most of the major market barometers. The Dow Jones industrial average finished down 5.41 points at 10,538.66 in a day of quiet trading.

In other economic news, the number of people late on their credit card payments hit an all-time high of 4.09 percent in the July-September quarter of last year, the American Bankers Association reported on Tuesday.

The figure was up from a 4.04 percent level in the second quarter. ABA chief economist James Chessen blamed part of the problem on the fact that Americans' financial difficulties have been intensified with the longer time it is taking many laid-off workers to find new jobs.

The ABA data followed an earlier report by the Federal Reserve which showed that total consumer debt in America hit a record of \$1.98 trillion in October.

The 1.4 percent decline in factory orders for November followed strong gains of 2.4 percent in October and 1.4 percent in September. It was the biggest decline since a 2.6 percent falloff last April.

The 2.5 percent drop in orders for durable goods left total demand for durable goods at a seasonally adjusted \$181.2 billion in November. Durable goods orders had been up 3.9 percent in October.

Orders for nondurable goods, items not expected to last at least three years, were down as well in November, falling 0.2 percent after posting a 0.6 percent increase in October.

Analysts discounted the big 41.1 percent drop in demand for non-defense communications equipment, viewing it as a temporary setback in a sector that has been surging over the past six months.

Other sectors suffering decreases were primary metals, including steel, down 2.5 percent and motor vehicles and parts, down 1.8 percent.

President Bush has come under increasing attacks from Democratic candidates running for president. They contend the administration has not done enough to alleviate the problems in U.S. manufacturing, which has seen an unbroken string of monthly job losses now totaling 2.8 million since manufacturing employment peaked in July 2000.

TRIPLE J MAZDA
CMYK
10/10

McDonald's suggests low-fat menu options

By ULA ILNYTZKY
AP WRITER

With Americans fattening up and fast food on the defensive, McDonald's this week began telling dieters in the New York area how much fat and carbs are in some of its meals.

New posters and brochures, prominently displayed in restaurants in New York, New Jersey and parts of Connecticut, tell customers how to modify McDonald's existing menu - by leaving out the bun or cheese, for example - to reduce their intake of fat, carbohydrates and calories.

"We are trying to educate our customers that the foods they love at McDonald's can fit into the diet they're on," said Cristina Vilella, marketing director for the fast food company's New York metro region office in Roseland, N.J.

"If they're watching fat, carbs or counting calories, they can take the menu and fit it into the lifestyle that they're leading."

But Vilella said there is no immediate plan to make such information available outside the tri-state area. "Different regions adopt different programs," she said.

Officials at McDonald's headquarters in Oak Brook, Ill., did not respond to phone calls requesting further comment.

The fast food industry has been under pressure by consumer groups and the government to provide more nutritional information about their food. McDonald's and a few others have previously made calorie count brochures available.

Jeff Cronin, a spokesman at the Center for Science in the Public Interest, called McDonald's new initiative "a step in the right direction."

But he said "if McDonald's really wants to give consumers good information about their choices, they would at least put

... and no fries on the side, please

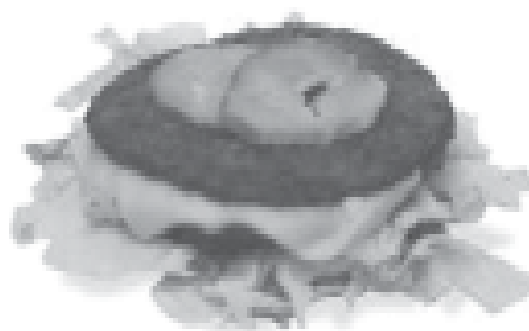
McDonald's began offering advice on how to cut carbs and calories from some of its menu items with posters and brochures in the New York metropolitan area. For the carb-concerned, for example, they suggest a Big Mac without the bun, special sauce and onions.



A traditional Big Mac contains 50 grams of carbohydrates —

... but removing the bun, sauce and onions —

... leaves you with the low-carb Big Mac, containing less than 7 grams of carbs.



SOURCE: McDonald's Corp.

AP

calorie counts on menu boards right alongside the price, where consumers could see them at the point of decision-making."

Legislation pending in the New York State Assembly and Congress would require fast food chains to put calorie counts on menu boards, and would make table service chains list calories, saturated and trans fats, carbohydrates and sodium counts on printed menus, Cronin said.

The new Real Life Choices program was developed by

nutritionist Pam Smith, author of "Eat Well, Live Well," in partnership with McDonald's franchisees. It was kicked off Monday at 650 McDonald's in New York City, on Long Island, in most of New Jersey and in Connecticut's Fairfield County.

Real Life Choice selections are created from existing menu items and carry the same price - even if you tell McDonald's to hold the cheese.

For example, a reduced-fat breakfast of less than 8 grams of

fat might be an Egg McMuffin minus the cheese and butter.

For the low-carb dieter, a breakfast with less than 5 grams of carbohydrates could be a platter of double meat or eggs without the English muffin, biscuit or hash browns. For those only counting calories, a breakfast of 300 calories or less could be an Egg McMuffin, a snack-size Fruit 'n Yogurt Parfait or scrambled eggs with a plain English muffin.

"I think there are a lot of

people who don't know how much fat or calories there are in a sauce or in mayonnaise or in salad dressing, no awareness that ketchup ... adds sugar," Smith said. "So if you're trying to cut carbs, that would be an example to leave it off."

Diners trying out the Choices approach in the community of Carle Place on Long Island approved.

"I think it's great," said Joseph Randazzo of Valley Stream. "It's always nice to know what you're eating."

Mike Zat of Levittown said the changes might improve the restaurant's reputation.

"McDonald's usually has a fast-food, kind of greasy connotation to the name," he said. "I guess it opens new ideas for people. Maybe they'll see McDonald's in a different light."

Dr. Alan Rulis, senior adviser for the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition at the Food and Drug Administration, said the chain is giving consumers more information. "We encourage that, even if it's an incremental step."

He said the FDA is discussing America's obesity problem and possible solutions with food processors and the restaurant industry. A report on the subject is expected next month.

"People don't go to McDonald's looking for diet food," said Smith, "but what Real Life Choices does is it gives them a chance to have food that will fit within their diet but still with that flavor that they're seeking."

McDonald's is also test-marketing an adult version of its Happy Meal called Go Active. Instead of a burger and a toy, the meal will include a salad and an exercise booklet. Other fast-food chains also have started offering healthier fare. Burger King, the No. 2 hamburger chain, for example, has a new line of low-fat, baguette-style chicken sandwiches.

Dow closes down 5 on quiet day

By LISA SINGHANIA
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Wall Street stalled in quiet trading Tuesday as investors booked profits from the New Year's rally and searched for new reasons to buy. Prices closed narrowly mixed, with technology stocks showing the biggest gains.

Some selling had been expected following the big advance a day earlier, and analysts said the absence of vigorous buying did not mean the market, which has been gradually moving higher since late 2003, was losing momentum.

"What you're seeing is a slight pause in what is still an upwardly biased market," said Brian Bush, director of equity research at Stephens Inc. "And I expect to see more upside."

The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 5.41, or 0.1 percent, at 10,538.66, maintaining nearly all of the

134-point surge on Monday that led it to its highest close since March 2002.

The market's broader indicators were higher. The Nasdaq composite index closed up 10.01, or 0.5 percent, at 2,057.37. The advance added to the 2 percent gain Monday, and was the index's highest close since Jan. 4, 2002.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 1.45, or 0.1 percent, to 1,123.67.

The market shrugged off a Commerce Department report of a 1.4 percent decline in November in orders to U.S. factories. It was the biggest setback for orders in seven months, but analysts discounted the numbers as a blip in a generally improving economic outlook.

Brian Williamson, an equity trader at The Boston Company Asset Management, said investors are focused on the future, and identifying the next

catalysts for a rally. He said Wall Street would be closely watching new job data and retail sales figures expected later this week. After that, the attention is likely to be on how many companies warn of earnings disappointments or revise fourth-quarter forecasts upward ahead of actual reports later this month.

"We need to see more positive stories from companies, we need to see the shape of the economy improving," Williamson said. "In order to keep this going, we're going to need good jobs numbers, good figures from retailers and good earnings."

Also Tuesday, the dollar sank to a new low against the euro and was lower against other key currencies. The weakening dollar is another potential pressure, because it makes investing in U.S. stocks less attractive to foreign investors who stand to lose money if the dollar further depreciates.

Selecting Stewart jurors a tricky process

Lawyers picking through jury questionnaires for the Martha Stewart trial face the tricky task of predicting how potential panelists might lean based on answers to queries that could be as simple as what their favorite TV show is.

The process falls somewhere between psychological analysis and mind-reading, legal experts say. And the stakes are huge: The 12 people ultimately selected will decide whether Stewart lands in prison or goes free.

While the questionnaire filled out Tuesday by hundreds of potential jurors is being kept secret, legal experts said Stewart's defense team likely used it to look for jurors who are financially sophisticated and hold high-paying jobs.

Those jurors could be more likely to believe Stewart's account that she had a pre-existing order to sell her ImClone Systems stock when

it fell to \$60 a share in 2001—the key to her defense, the experts said.

Such a juror might be "prepared in this age where corporate scandals are on everyone's mind to view these acts objectively and independent of the climate," said Barry Berke, a white-collar defense attorney in New York.

The government claims Stewart was tipped that ImClone founder Sam Waksal and his family were trying to unload ImClone shares. Stewart sold hers on Dec. 27, 2001, a day before a negative government report about an ImClone drug damaged its stock price.

Stewart is accused of lying to the government, and deceiving her own shareholders, about the circumstances of the sale. Stewart avoided \$45,673 in losses on the shares by selling before the bad news was made public. (AP)

The year in American culture

By ELIZABETH LARGE
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Call them 2003's lifestyle newsmakers. Not President Bush, but Dr. Atkins. Not Wall Street, but wet basements. Not aquaporins, but picture phones.

These are the people, places and things that—for better or worse—caught our attention this past year. They were emblematic of the widely differing subjects that fall under the catch-all “lifestyle”: fashion, interior design, relationships, health, fitness, food and nutrition.

We don't pretend this is the year-ending list to end all year-enders. Forgive us if we've left out your favorite newsmaker, but all we can say is: Wait until next year.

The People

Dr. Robert Atkins. The diet guru and best-selling author died this April from a fall at age 72, having finally gained respectability for his radical weight-loss plan. His diet can be summed up simply: protein and fats are good, carbohydrates are bad—at least as far as shedding pounds goes.

Martha Stewart. In spite of her legal woes, her furniture line for Bernhardt, in retail showrooms

this spring, was a phenomenal success. She still symbolizes a gracious lifestyle for millions of Americans, and Barbara Walters named her one of 2003's ten most fascinating people.

Fat kids. Because 20 to 30 percent of American children are now obese or likely to become so, the American Academy of Pediatrics issued its first recommendation on the problem, that doctors should check their young patients' body-mass index annually. Two weeks ago the first prescription pill was approved to help teens fight obesity.

Arnold Schwarzenegger. The first former chairman of the President's Council on Physical Fitness to be elected governor of a state. He couldn't have done it without wife and Kennedy family member Maria.

Trista and Ryan. Love in America, 2003-style. “The Bachelorette” couple got to know each other in six weeks in front of cameras. ABC paid for their million-dollar wedding—and broadcast it, of course.

“Queer Eye for the Straight Guy” cast. The Fab Five's makeovers in fashion, interior design, food, grooming and

culture made the term “metrosexual” part of mainstream America's vocabulary. Critics dubbed Bravo's surprise hit the most watchable of this season's reality shows.

Narciso Rodriguez. The Hispanic designer, who became famous for creating the late Carolyn Bessette Kennedy's wedding gown, is a favorite of celebs, but his designs are known for their quiet elegance. This year he won his second consecutive Womenswear Designer of the Year award from the Council of Fashion Designers of America.

Oprah. She became a billionaire and this year made Forbes magazine's list of the world's richest people by discussing lifestyle issues on her popular talk show. Her campaign to help orphans of South Africa's AIDS epidemic and her feud with Dave Letterman also made news this year.

Jamie Oliver. TV's “Naked Chef” has a new Food Network show, a new cookbook and a new line of T-Fal gourmet cookware. He even has a new baby. Some think the American public's fascination with Oliver and other celebrity chefs has to do with the fact that our mothers aren't teaching us to cook anymore.

Michael Jackson. The year began with ABC's documentary about the King of Pop, which fascinated and repelled the American public, and is ending with what may turn out to be the most sensational celebrity court case ever.

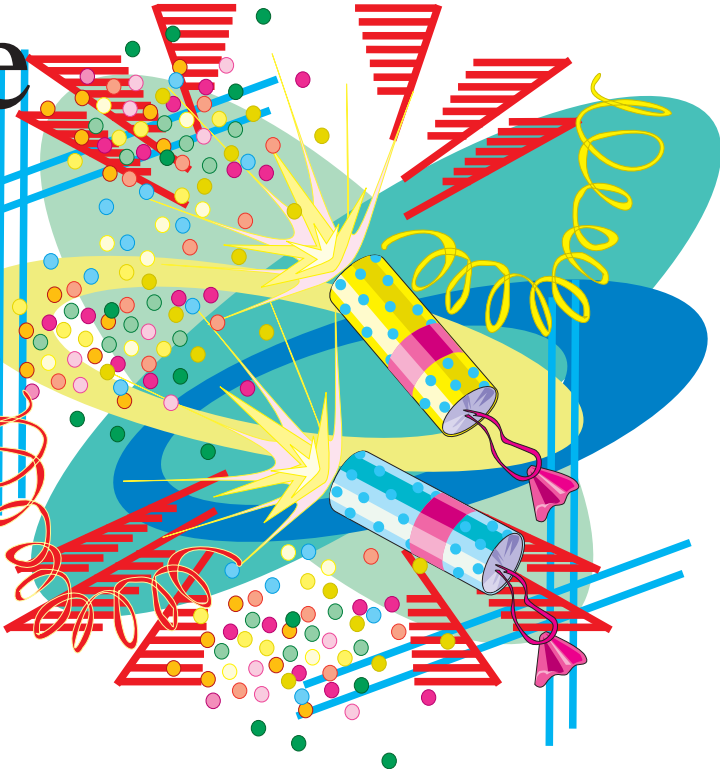
The Places

Friendster.com. The hot new online community where you link only with people who are friends or friends of friends. With more than 4 million members, it's the ultimate in social networking. At a time when online dating services are losing steam, Friendster is growing by leaps and bounds.

Whole Foods and Trader Joe's. The trend toward more healthful foods continues unabated. Of course we're still enjoying our Krispy Kremes and quarter pounders, but shoppers are also crowding the aisles of stores that sell organic produce and free-range chicken.

Male-Only Spas. A quarter of all spa clients are men, according to People magazine. Now men are starting to have their very own retreats.

Freedom Paradise. The new resort in Mexico, which caters to



those who are part of the national trend of people getting fat, bills itself as the first of its kind. Plus-size vacationers can have fun without worrying about how they look, and can be comfortable because of amenities such as extra-large, extra-sturdy poolside lounge chairs.

Wet basements. Twenty-eight inches of snow in February, Tropical storm Isabel in September and record precipitation for the year. Need we say more? Well, yes. After one of the worst dry spells in the history of the region, we just weren't prepared.

Wal-Mart. The new Christmas urban legend: A woman claimed she was trampled there in a stampede to buy \$29.87 DVD players. Some saw it as the ultimate example of crass commercialism, others as a great deal on DVD players made possible by underpaid Wal-Mart workers and cheap Chinese labor.

Self-scan lanes. Do-it-yourself comes to our biggest supermarkets. Shoppers love 'em or hate 'em, but self-scanning is changing the way we shop for groceries.

Duct tape. Use it for homeland defense, hurricanes and even fashion accessories. Each year Americans buy about \$300 million worth, USA Today reported, until this year when production quintupled. You never can predict what items will become trendy.

Trans-fat. Known as the “stealth fat,” it's bad for your heart and just about impossible to avoid. Every junk food you love seems to contain it. And because it's manmade—found mostly in hydrogenated fats—natural food advocates are particularly alarmed.

Cell phones with cameras. This year digital picture phones took off—and raised technology's latest privacy issues. You can discreetly e-mail the image anywhere to another picture phone user without the subject's knowing.

Low-carb foods. Michelob Ultra low-carb beer, Russell Stover low-carb candies, Hardee's lettuce-wrapped Thickburger and pork rinds are the latest weapons in the battle of the bulge—all the result, of course, of 2003's high-profile low-carb diets such as South Beach and Atkins.

Father-daughter relationships. Network TV shows “Alias,” “Karen Sisco,” “8 Simple Rules,” “The O.C.,” and “24” made them big. The most interesting are the first two, which show daughters can be both strong women and daddy's girls.

Boot camp. The war mentality extends even to getting in shape. Military-inspired fitness and weight-loss programs could be found in gyms all over the United States this year.

Virtual colonoscopy. Medical technology marches on. The test is noninvasive, is done without sedation, requires less disruptive preparation, and is less expensive than a traditional colonoscopy. It may become the procedure of choice for mass screening, saving about 50,000 lives lost to colon cancer each year.

The Things

The mini. The year's fashion highlight. It was part of a Mod explosion, which was in turn part of a return to all things retro in fashion and home. Whether rising hemlines had any connection to the war, as history suggests, seems unlikely.

SARS. Severe acute respiratory syndrome didn't officially exist in March; by May it made the covers of Newsweek and Time. The flu-like illness caused relatively few deaths worldwide given the panic it engendered — there were 8,098 cases, including 774 deaths. This year's virulent flu strains will probably affect more Americans.

Gay marriage. Supported by Massachusetts' highest court in 2003, a public commitment to lifelong union has become a family-values hot button for conservatives.

Freedom Paradise. The new resort in Mexico, which caters to

tribune new year

Life & Style

Publishers promoting books with razzle-dazzle

By RENEE TAWA
LOS ANGELES TIMES

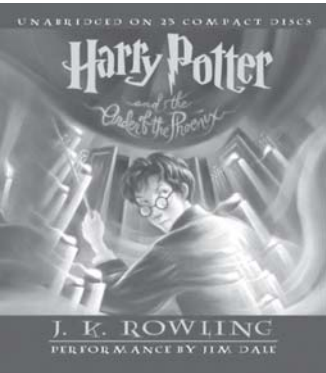
Meet Stephen King! Put your beagle on the cover of a best-selling book! Win \$4,000 (and a free paperback)!

Ah, the gentle art of book-ish persuasion. ... This was a year in which the publishing industry kept its literati tendencies in check and infused a Hollywood-style razzle-dazzle into contests and other promotions intended to nudge books into at least a glimmer of the popular culture spotlight. With book sales down from last year, publishers are being forced to abandon their high-brow position above the fray and dive right in with movies, TV and other competing forms of popular culture.

"Publishing for so many years was viewed as a fussy gentleman's business, as an academic corner," said Jacqueline Deval, publisher of Hearst Books and author of this year's "Publicize Your Book" (Perigree). "That hasn't completely gone away, but it's certainly attenuated. Publishers are becoming more slick and savvy on reaching potential audiences."

The hype doesn't take the shine off books, doesn't diminish the importance of literature in our culture, she said. "It's a mistake to treat books as precious things, as part of that rarefied academic realm of the world. That's the kind of thinking that makes books feel inaccessible."

Who says new books aren't fun in a movie premiere kind of way? Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., promoted her memoir, "Living History" (Simon & Schuster), on a Barbara Walters TV special this year. In November, Madonna talked up her second



children's book, "Mr. Peabody's Apples" (Callaway), on "Late Show With David Letterman."

There also were troubling signs that a book alone, minus the celebrity, isn't sexy enough to turn a consumer's head. In June, after Oprah Winfrey featured John Steinbeck's "East of Eden" on her show, for instance, Penguin released a new edition of the classic with this plug dominating the cover: "The book that brought Oprah's Book Club back."

Even publishers with sure-fire hits on their hands tried to come up with new ways to cannonball their books into the public consciousness.

In June, a moving billboard on the Sunset Strip in Hollywood and an electronic sign on Times Square in New York were timed to mark the exact moment that "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" (Scholastic) was released. It's impossible to say whether the marketing of J.K. Rowling's latest added to the novel's star power, but it didn't hurt—and more than 11 million copies have been sold in the United States.

Largely, though, big-splash publicity campaigns didn't pay off. In the first 10 months of the year, for instance, sales of adult hardcover books were down 5.8 percent, to \$965 million, compared to the same period last year, according to the New York-based Association of American Publishers.

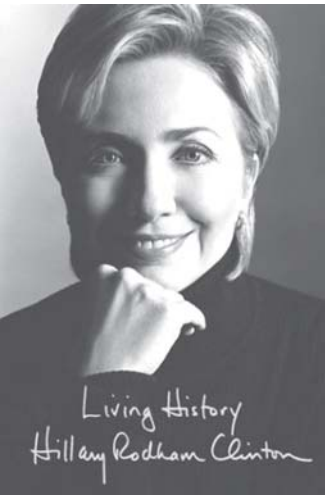
In this uneven economy, consumers consider new books to be luxury items, noted Robert Baensch, director of New York University's Center for Publishing. (According to the latest study by R.R. Bowker, which tracks U.S. publishing statistics, the average retail price of hardcovers in 2002 was \$25.06 for fiction and \$28.60 for nonfiction.)

As a result, major publishers are forced to think globally, Baensch said. "The big guys are taking the lead of saying, 'I'm not just publishing a book. I can have a miniseries (tie-in) on TV, a mega-event with movies, plastic figures at McDonald's or Burger King, and the fluffy toys at Toys R Us.'"

In the past few years, the industry's expansion has perpetuated the frenzy. Last year, U.S. publishers released 150,000 new books, up 5.86 percent, according to the Bowker study. The number of new publishers on the scene: 10,305.

Publishers are taking no chances with even brand-name authors, designing marketing campaigns to build and sustain buzz.

In a contest promoting the latest volume in "The Dark Tower," the series of novels by Stephen King, Simon & Schuster and Penguin invited readers to submit videotapes dramatizing an excerpt from one of the books. The winner will meet King in New York next year—travel expenses are not included—have one photograph taken with him and



can ask "one or two questions."

Dan Brown's colossal best seller "The Da Vinci Code" (Doubleday) already is on its second contest since its publication in March. In the first one, participants worldwide had to solve a complicated puzzle based on the book's plot. Brown will name a character in his next novel after the winner. The second contest is offering a three-night stay in Paris. "The Da Vinci Code" is one of the runaway hits of the year, with more than 5 million copies in print.

Books with lower profiles got into the game too. The winner of an online sweepstakes for "This Book Will Change Your Life" (Plume) by Ben Carey and Henrik Delehag will receive \$4,000 and a copy of the book.

In time for the holidays, DK Publishing is offering to put readers' snapshots on the cover of "America 24/7," a photography book put together by the team behind "A Day in the Life of America." Submit a digital photo to a DK Publishing Web page, and the publisher will send "America 24/7" with a custom jacket for about \$6 extra.

Twenty percent of the book's buyers have ordered the custom covers, a spokeswoman said, and 30 percent of the submitted photographs are of pets. The book has a first printing of 500,000 copies.

DK Publishing calls the offer "the first mass-customization of a best-selling book."

There was a time in this country when books took off without mass marketing, pointed out Jeffrey D. Groves, an English professor at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, Calif. Harriet Beecher

Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin," published in 1852, sold more than 500,000 copies within five years. And that was before books were advertised in magazines such as Harper's and the Atlantic Monthly in the mid-19th century and before writers such as Mark Twain traveled on book tours, Groves said.

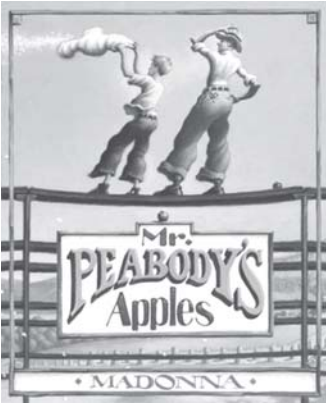
Maybe it's a quaint notion to think that readers still make a point to wander into stores and, by serendipity or with a bookseller's help, stumble upon a book that helps define who they are, that opens up their world.

In her new book of essays, "Thank You for Not Reading" (Dalkey Archive), Dubravka Ugresic writes that the outlook is bleak for literary writers. In the overcrowded marketplace, "the concept of literature is disappearing, and its place is increasingly being taken by books." She writes about the U.S. market: "The individual voice is increasingly rare. Every voice, every text is slotted into the market niche of the moment, the buzzword of the moment, the codes of the market."

But not everyone thinks the outlook is so bleak. The right book still can sell without a monster advertising campaign, said Eric Kampmann, president of Midpoint Trade Books in Kansas, a sales and distribution company for more than 150 independent publishers.

Audrey Niffenegger's "The Time Traveler's Wife," for example, took off even before San Francisco-based publisher MacAdam/Cage launched a big advertising campaign.

"A small publisher, like anyone else, is susceptible to a windfall," Kampmann said. "That keeps motivating them and gives them hope that they'll come across the book that'll become the next 'Harry Potter.'"



jet new year

Life & Style

Reflecting pools picked for 9-11 memorial

By AMY WESTFELDT
AP WRITER

A design consisting of two reflecting pools and a paved stone field was chosen Tuesday for the World Trade Center memorial after an eight-month competition that drew more than 5,000 entries from around the world.

The "Reflecting Absence" memorial, created by city designer Michael Arad, was chosen by a 13-member jury of artists, architects and civic and cultural leaders. The winning memorial was announced by the Lower Manhattan Development Corp., the agency overseeing the rebuilding of the site.

The memorial drew an icy reception from victims' families, who accused the jury of ignoring their input during a hasty deliberation and said the design failed to convey the horror of the attack.

Anthony Gardner, who lost his brother in the Sept. 11 attack and is a member of a coalition for family groups, said the design is "unacceptable."

"This is minimalism, and you can't minimize the impact and the enormity of Sept. 11," Gardner said. "You can't minimize the deaths. You can't minimize the response of New Yorkers."

The memorial will remember all of the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack, including those killed at the Pentagon, in Pennsylvania and aboard the hijacked airliners. It also will honor the six people killed in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

The memorial will be one of two focal points at the trade center site, along with the 1,776-foot glass skyscraper known as the Freedom Tower. Four other buildings are planned where

the trade center once stood.

The jury reviewed 5,201 submissions from around the world beginning last summer, narrowing the field to eight in November. By the time the jury convened on Monday, it had chosen three finalists: "Garden of Lights," "Passages of Light: the Memorial Cloud" and "Reflecting Absence."

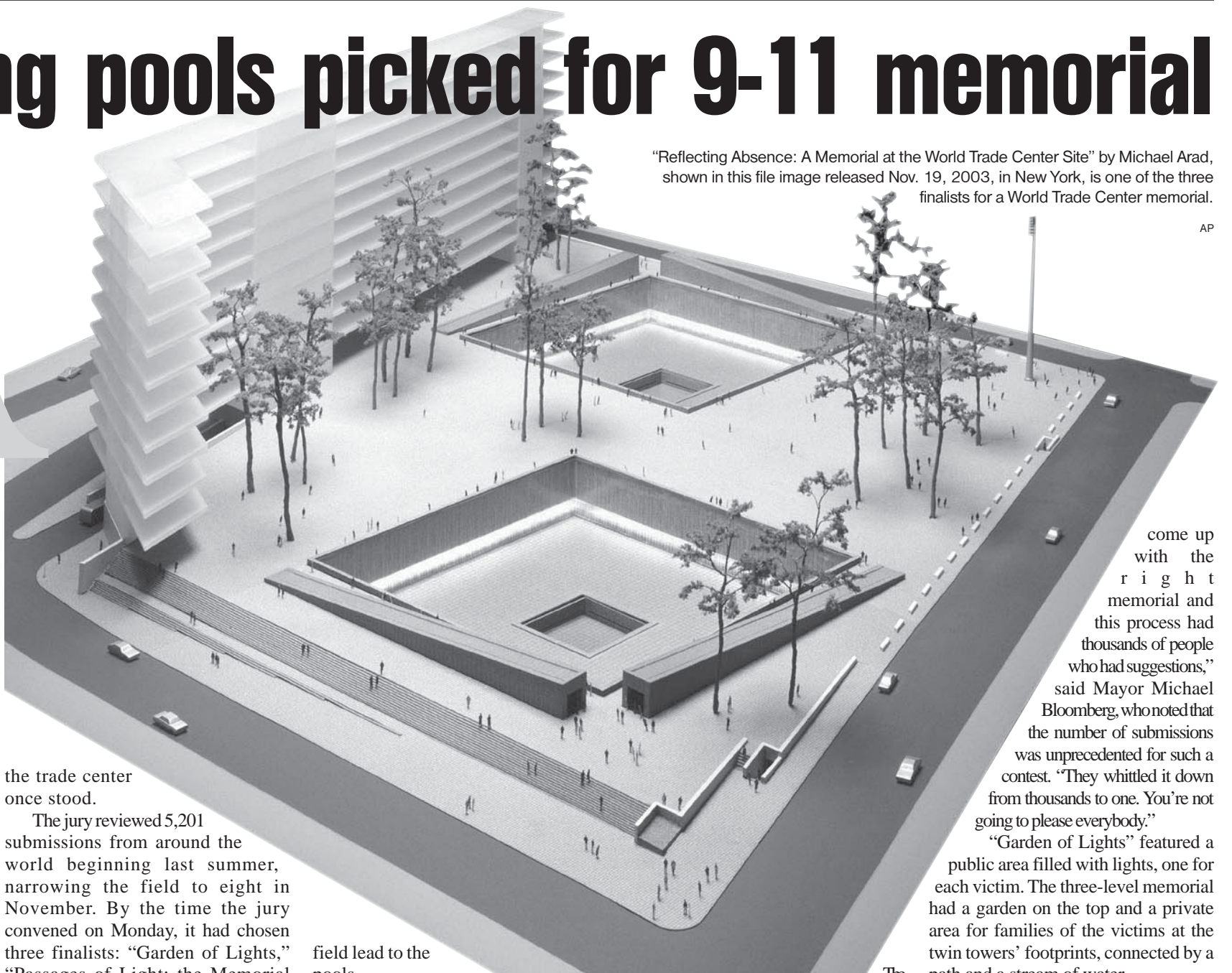
The reflecting pools that are the centerpiece of the winning memorial mark the footprints of the World Trade Center towers. Pine trees and the stone

field lead to the pools.

A jubilant Arad said he was surrounded by well-wishers after learning his plan was chosen. "I just have so many people in the room right now," he said by telephone.

"Reflecting Absence: A Memorial at the World Trade Center Site" by Michael Arad, shown in this file image released Nov. 19, 2003, in New York, is one of the three finalists for a World Trade Center memorial.

AP



come up with the right memorial and this process had thousands of people who had suggestions," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who noted that the number of submissions was unprecedented for such a contest. "They whittled it down from thousands to one. You're not going to please everybody."

"Garden of Lights" featured a public area filled with lights, one for each victim. The three-level memorial had a garden on the top and a private area for families of the victims at the twin towers' footprints, connected by a path and a stream of water.

"Passages of Light," by three New York designers, included an open-air structure with cathedral-like vaults and a glass walkway and would have an altar for each victim.

Ohio woman claims \$162M lottery jackpot

CLEVELAND (AP)—A hospital worker came forward Tuesday and collected a \$162 million lottery jackpot, and another woman who told authorities she bought the winning ticket but lost it has filed a lawsuit seeking to halt any payout to the winner.

Rebecca Jemison, 34, of suburban South Euclid, turned in the ticket for the 11-state Mega Millions jackpot at Ohio Lottery headquarters.

The lottery validated it Tuesday as the sole winning ticket for the drawing.

The woman with the competing

claim, Elecia Battle, filed a lawsuit later Tuesday asking a Cuyahoga County judge to block the lottery from paying Jemison.

"My ticket was lost. I do recall all the numbers. They are all somehow family related. No one can tell me what I did and did not play. I did it honestly and I have no doubt," Battle told The Associated Press at the office of her attorney, Sheldon Starke.

Earlier, Jemison said the competing claim by Battle, 40, of Cleveland, prompted her to quit stalling and collect

the prize from the Dec. 30 drawing.

Police, who originally had said Battle's story was credible, said they were investigating whether she had lied in a police report, a misdemeanor punishable by 30 days to six months in jail.

Dennis G. Kennedy, director of the Ohio Lottery, said the lottery was confident Jemison had purchased the ticket, not found it.

Jemison provided another lottery ticket purchased at the same time and location and had a lottery ticket that showed she had played the same numbers in the prior drawing, Kennedy said.



Jemison

Michael Jackson returns passport to authorities

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson has again surrendered the passport authorities briefly returned to him so he could travel to Great Britain on business, although there was no indication he ever used it.

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Thomas Sneddon took Jackson's passport after the singer was booked in November on child molestation charges.

Sneddon returned it so Jackson could travel to Britain between Dec. 20 and Tuesday to meet what the singer said were long-standing contractual obligations. But

two days after the trip was to begin, the prosecutor demanded that Jackson prove he was traveling or return the passport after he said he heard reports the entertainer had canceled his trip.

On Dec. 24 he issued a statement saying the matter had been resolved with Jackson and his attorney Mark Geragos.

Susan Tellem, a spokeswoman for Sneddon, confirmed in an e-mail Tuesday that Jackson has returned the passport. She did not immediately return a call for comment on whether Jackson provided Sneddon with proof of travel.

Jackson family friend Brian Oxman

said Tuesday he didn't know if Jackson had traveled. But he said one of Jackson's brothers, Randy Jackson, told him the commitments in Britain had been canceled.

At the time of Sneddon's Dec. 22 demand, Jackson's then-spokesman, Stuart Backerman, said he believed plans for the trip were still on. Jackson's new spokesman, Kevin McLin, did not return calls for comment Tuesday.

Jackson was still in the United States as recently as Christmas Day, when he taped an interview with "60 Minutes" to deny the molestation charges.

Harrison's estate sues doctor

NEW YORK (AP)—A doctor forced a weakened George Harrison to autograph a guitar for the physician's teenage son two weeks before the ex-Beatle died of cancer, a lawsuit filed Tuesday alleges.

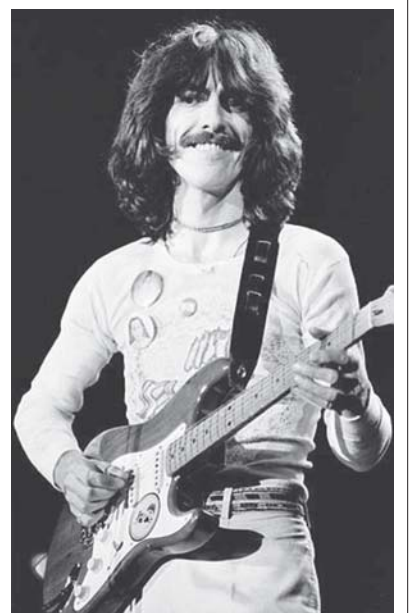
Filed by Harrison's estate, the suit alleges that the musician tried to resist the request by saying, "I do not even know if I know how to spell my name anymore."

The suit alleges that Dr. Gilbert Lederman responded by saying, "Come on, you can do this," and held Harrison's hand as the musician wrote his name on the guitar "with great effort and much obvious discomfort."

The estate seeks possession of the guitar and two cards it says Harrison signed as he was treated by Lederman, a Staten Island-based expert in treating large tumors with high doses of radiation. Harrison died in November 2001 after battling lung cancer and a brain tumor.

"This lawsuit is strictly allegations. Frankly, I think it's absurd," Lederman's attorney, Wayne Roth, said Tuesday. "He didn't coerce Mr. Harrison."

Harrison's wife and son believe a National Enquirer story about Harrison's death that featured



AP

George Harrison performs in a 1974 concert in Landover, Md. in this file photo.

Lederman's son holding the instrument was orchestrated by Lederman to raise the item's value, a lawyer for the Harrison estate said Tuesday.

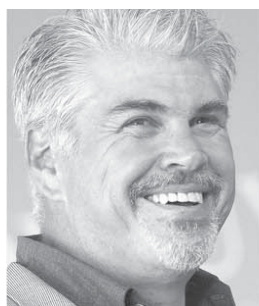
"George was literally lying there dying and the doctor forced George to sign a guitar," Paul LiCalsi, an attorney for Harrison's estate, said Tuesday. "The doctor should not be permitted to profit from this behavior."

'Rings' Jackson gets third DGA nomination

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" earned Peter Jackson his third-straight nomination for the Directors Guild of America Awards on Tuesday, the first filmmaker ever nominated three years in a row.

Also nominated were Sofia Coppola for "Lost in Translation," her tale of unlikely friendship in Tokyo; Clint Eastwood for "Mystic River," a brooding drama of murder and revenge; Gary Ross for "Seabiscuit," the story of the Depression-era racehorse; and Peter Weir for the Napoleonic naval adventure "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World."

The winner will be



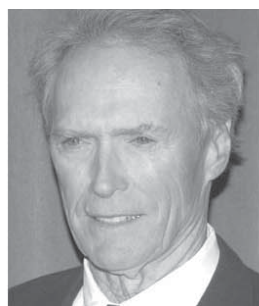
Ross



Coppola



Jackson



Clint Eastwood



Weir

Nominees for the best director award from the Directors Guild of America are shown in this combination of file photos. From left are: Gary Ross for "Seabiscuit;" Sofia Coppola for "Lost in Translation;" Peter Jackson for "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King;" Clint Eastwood for "Mystic River" and Peter Weir for "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World."

announced at the guild's 56th annual awards dinner Feb. 7.

Jackson previously was nominated for the first two chapters of his fantasy trilogy, 2001's "The Fellowship of the Ring" and 2002's "The Two

Towers." Adapted from J.R.R. Tolkien's epic adventure, all three films have become worldwide blockbusters, with "Return of the King" racing to nearly \$300 million domestically in just three weeks.

As the big finale to the saga, "Return of the King" is widely considered the trilogy's best shot to take top honors at the Academy Awards. The first two films earned best-picture nominations but lost. Jackson

was nominated for a best-director Oscar for "Fellowship of the Ring" but lost, and he was overlooked for an Oscar nomination on "Two Towers."

The top guild honor bodes well for a director's prospects at

the Oscars, which will be presented Feb. 29. Only six times since 1949 has the guild winner failed to go on to win the best-director Oscar.

Coppola, daughter of past guild winner Francis Ford Coppola, and Ross earned their first guild nominations. Eastwood is a past DGA winner for "Unforgiven," and Weir was nominated three times previously, for "Witness," "Dead Poets Society" and "The Truman Show."

Snubbed by the guild this time was "Cold Mountain" director Anthony Minghella, a past DGA winner for "The English Patient." "Cold Mountain" earned a leading eight Golden Globe nominations, including best director for Minghella.

Scruggs turns 80, gets surprise party

By JOHN GEROME
AP WRITER

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Some of Nashville's finest pickers threw a surprise party Tuesday for banjo great Earl Scruggs on his 80th birthday—and they brought their instruments with them.

Scruggs, whose three-fingered approach to playing the instrument is credited by many with giving bluegrass music its distinctive sound, accepted a banjo-shaped cake and watched an all-star cast perform "Foggy Mountain Breakdown."

Vince Gill, Ricky Skaggs, Alison Krauss, Marty Stuart, Brenda Lee, Porter Wagoner, Bela Fleck, Sam Bush, Jim Lauderdale, members of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and many others attended the celebration at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum.

President Bush sent his congratulations, as did actor Billy Bob Thornton and musical stars Don Henley, Dolly Parton and Dwight Yoakam.

Gill called Scruggs an innovator who created a new way to play his instrument.

"When he started that three-fingered banjo style," Gill said, "everybody I know who heard it was stopped in their tracks and said, 'What is that?' I have to find that, I have to learn that."

But Gill said Scruggs' greatest gift was his open-



AP
Legendary musician Earl Scruggs, left, and his wife and manager, Louise, cut a banjo-shaped birthday cake at an 80th birthday party for Scruggs on Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2004 in Nashville, Tenn.

mind approach that brought acoustic music to a wider, younger audience in the 1960s and '70s. Through the years, Scruggs has recorded with country, rock and pop stars, including Sting, Elton John, Henley, Yoakam, Johnny Cash, the Byrds and many others.

With his wife and manager, Louise, at his side, Scruggs told the crowd, "Thank you, every one of you. I enjoyed every bit of it."

Scruggs grew up on a farm in North Carolina's Cleveland County and worked as a textile worker in the early 1940s before he began performing professionally.

He met Lester Flatt in 1945 when they were members of Bill

Monroe's Blue Grass Boys. They left three years later to form the Foggy Mountain Boys and eventually the hugely successful Flatt & Scruggs.

The duo started an early morning radio show in Nashville and joined the Grand Ole Opry cast in 1955. During the late 1950s and early '60s, they had a syndicated TV show and their songs began hitting the country charts.

"The Ballad of Jed Clampett" from "The Beverly Hillbillies" TV show hit No. 1 on the country charts in 1962—their only chart topper. "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" from the 1967 movie "Bonnie and Clyde" reached only No. 58 but became a bluegrass

standard. Their other hits include "Cabin in the Hills" and "Pearl, Pearl, Pearl," another song from "The Beverly Hillbillies."

Musical and business differences ended the duo in 1969. Scruggs and his sons Randy and Gary formed the Earl Scruggs Revue that year and became a major draw on college campuses. Their repertoire mixed traditional songs and contemporary folk-rock covers with Scruggs' intricate banjo solos.

"I always felt like Earl was to the five-string banjo what Babe Ruth was to baseball," Wagoner said. "He is the best there ever was, and the best there ever will be."

Photographer Francesco Scavullo dead at 81

By MADISON J. GRAY
AP WRITER

NEW YORK (AP) — Fashion photographer Francesco Scavullo, who shot covers for Cosmopolitan magazine for more than 30 years, died Tuesday morning of heart failure, his companion said. He was 81.

Scavullo was preparing for an assignment when he complained of feeling weak, and then collapsed, Sean Byrne said.

Known for works ranging from enamel-on-canvas photo silkscreens to portraits of celebrities such as Grace Kelly and Elizabeth Taylor, Scavullo was also recognized for his photographs of children. One of the most famous was his 1975 portrait of a young Brooke Shields.

Byrne said his partner's work was guided by his love of beauty and children—themes Scavullo himself cited in a 1985 interview with The Associated Press.

"I have a passion for taking pictures of beautiful women," he said in the interview. "I was fascinated when my mother got done up. My mother made the transformation from Cinderella every day of her life."

Born Jan. 16, 1921, on Staten Island, Scavullo was one of five children whose father owned the old Central Park Casino. As a youth he got a job assisting the fashion photographer, Horst, and learned much of his craft from him.

He later worked for Vogue and Seventeen magazines before launching a lucrative and lengthy career that included photographing covers for Cosmopolitan, Harper's Bazaar and other magazines. At the peak of his career he commanded as much as \$10,000 a sitting.

"He was one of the most generous people I ever met in my life," Byrne said. "He helped a lot of needy people and never mentioned it."

wallace

Husband's salon tan is sign that he's cheating

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN



Dear Abby

When I confront him, he tells me that I have a problem and that I need help— not him! I am in therapy in order to decide what to do with the rest of my life.

Please print this list again for those who might have missed it.

SUSPICIOUS NO MORE

DEAR SUSPICIOUS NO MORE: You are a strong lady. I'm sure you'll make the right decisions about your future. I'm also pleased you're getting professional support, because therapy can be helpful regardless of age.

And now, the list:

- (1) A sudden change in manner of dress and grooming.
- (2) Secretiveness.
- (3) Unexplained absences.
- (4) Unfamiliar charges on credit card or phone bills.
- (5) Hang-ups on your home phone.
- (6) More business trips than usual.
- (7) Stops confiding in you or asking your advice.
- (8) Sets up a new e-mail account and doesn't tell you.
- (9) Mutual friends start acting strangely toward you. (They either knew about the cheating or have been told stories about what a horrible wife or girlfriend you are.)
- (10) Refuses to let you take him to the airport when he's leaving town.
- (11) Carries condoms even though you are on the pill.
- (12) Deletes incoming phone numbers from caller ID.
- (13) Leaves the house in the morning smelling like Irish Spring and returns in the evening smelling like Speedstick.
- (14) Becomes accusatory, asking if you are being true to him, usually out of guilt.
- (15) Raises hypothetical questions such as, "Do you think it's possible to love more than one person at a time?"
- (16) Buys himself new underwear.
- (17) Insists that the child seat, toys, etc., are kept out of his car.
- (18) Stops wearing his wedding ring.
- (19) Supposedly works a lot of overtime, but it never shows up on the pay stub.
- (20) Suddenly wants to try new love techniques.
- (21) Has unexplained scratches or bruises on his neck or back.
- (22) Has a sudden desire to be helpful with the laundry.
- (23) Picks fights in order to stomp out of the house.
- (24) Shows a sudden interest in a different type of music.
- (25) Has a sudden preoccupation with his appearance.
- (26) Spends an excessive amount of time on the computer, especially after you have gone to bed.
- (27) Works long hours on weekends, but is never at his desk to answer the phone. Then calls back later with a reason, such as, "I was working in the conference room where there is more space."
- (28) Has lots of "emergency errands." Then comes home empty-handed, saying, "They didn't have what I needed."
- (29) And the telltale sign of a cheating spouse? Having to ask the question in the first place. Listen to your gut!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: *Dear Abby*, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Hefner would like Spears as a girlfriend

NEW YORK (AP)—Now that Britney Spears is a single woman again, she already has at least one potential beau: Hugh Hefner.

The 77-year-old Playboy founder said he's interested in adding the pop singer to his bevy of beautiful blonde girlfriends.

"Britney would make a great girlfriend," Hefner told *Us Weekly* magazine for its Jan. 19 issue.

"Picasso had his pink period and his blue period. I am in my blonde period right now," he said. "I think it's related to those early

movies that had such a great influence on me when I was a kid."

Hefner said he'd also like to see the 22-year-old Spears appear as a Playmate, as well as Catherine Zeta-Jones.

"They really epitomize the type of beauty that we like in

the magazine," he said.

Spears got married in an impromptu Las Vegas ceremony early Saturday morning, then filed for an annulment 55 hours later. The groom, Jason Allen Alexander, is a childhood friend of hers from Kentwood, La.

Celine Dion gets star on Hollywood walk

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Celine Dion broke down in tears as she thanked her late father for being her "No. 1 fan" during a ceremony Tuesday to receive her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"My dad was my No. 1 fan, and he still is," the French-Canadian singer said before nearly 1,000 fans, many of them shouting out their condolences. Her father, Adhemar Dion, 80, died late last year after a lengthy illness.

The 35-year-old singer arrived at the Hollywood Boulevard ceremony wearing a cream-colored skirt suit that nearly matched the color of her hair. Her star sits in front of the Kodak Theatre.

"How often do natural blondes from Quebec make it big in Hollywood?" comedian Jay Leno joked in introducing Dion. She thanked the "Tonight Show" host for inviting her to perform on his show 13 years ago, giving her a big break on American television.

Dion had been scheduled to receive the star last March to coincide with the beginning of her three-year contract to



Singer Celine Dion poses during a ceremony honoring her with the 2,244th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2004, in Los Angeles.

perform at Caesars Palace hotel-casino in Las Vegas. But the ceremony was postponed because of the war in Iraq.

During the ceremony, Dion thanked her husband, Rene

Angelil, for helping her launch her career and her fans for their support through the years.

"Everything that I have today and where I am is because you put me here," she told the

crowd. She rewarded many of them by signing autographs after the ceremony.

Dion is best known for her hit "My Heart Will Go On" from the "Titanic" movie soundtrack.

Kidman to present at the Oscars

NEW YORK (AP)—Nicole Kidman will be a presenter at the 76th Academy Awards, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Monday.

Kidman won the best-actress Oscar last year for "The Hours."

The Oscars will be presented Feb. 29 at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, Calif., and will be televised live by ABC.



Hatfield's death said caused by cocaine

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (AP)—Righteous Brothers singer Bobby Hatfield's death in November was caused by cocaine and not just heart failure, according to the official autopsy report.

Dr. Richard Tooker, chief medical examiner for Kalamazoo County, told the Kalamazoo Gazette in Tuesday's editions that Hatfield's death was triggered by acute cocaine intoxication.

Hatfield, 63, died Nov. 5 just hours before a Righteous Brothers concert. He and his partner, Bill Medley, had hits like "Unchained Melody" and "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling."

"This is a shock to me," Medley told The Orange County (Calif.) Register from his Newport Beach, Calif., home. "I never saw him (use cocaine). I knew absolutely nothing about

it. If I had known, I would have said something to him."

An initial autopsy found Hatfield had advanced coronary disease. A heart attack due to the disease was listed on Hatfield's death certificate.

However, Tooker said a final cause of death was not determined until after toxicology reports were completed. The death certificate will be changed to reflect cocaine as the cause of death, he said.

Tooker's office received the report of cocaine intoxication on Dec. 24, but he asked for the information to be released after the holidays out of respect to Hatfield's family.

Messages left Tuesday with Tooker and the William Morris Agency, which represents the Righteous Brothers, were not returned.



Singer Beyonce Knowles performs prior to Super Bowl XXXVII in San Diego, Jan. 26, 2003.

Beyonce Knowles to sing at Super Bowl

NEW YORK (AP)—Beyonce Knowles will sing the national anthem before the Super Bowl in her native Houston, the NFL announced Tuesday.

Super Bowl XXXVIII is scheduled for Feb. 1 at Reliant Stadium and will be televised on CBS.

A week later, on Feb. 8, Knowles is up for six Grammy Awards, including record of the

year for "Crazy in Love" featuring her boyfriend, Jay-Z. Her album, "Dangerously in Love," has sold 5 million copies.

The 22-year-old Destiny's Child singer joins a wildly varied group of performers who've sung "The Star-Spangled Banner" before the Super Bowl, including Charley Pride, Barry Manilow, Kathie Lee Gifford and the Backstreet Boys.

Pastimes

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

IN THE PHONEBOOK Solution: 5 letters

T	N	E	M	N	R	E	V	O	G	A	G	E	N	T
P	S	B	U	P	K	C	E	H	C	T	K	Y	N	L
A	A	U	A	D	D	R	E	S	S	I	O	E	M	U
R	G	G	R	S	O	D	L	R	N	E	M	W	E	S
T	E	E	R	T	S	A	U	D	C	Y	M	C	N	N
S	N	S	S	Y	W	O	E	J	O	B	S	O	O	O
L	C	N	S	Y	R	C	L	M	A	I	P	H	C	
A	Y	R	E	E	G	I	P	I	P	T	L	Y	P	B
C	S	R	O	A	R	M	C	G	A	R	A	G	E	U
O	P	E	R	T	E	D	A	M	N	T	T	O	L	S
L	L	T	C	S	C	O	R	M	Y	S	I	E	E	I
X	E	D	N	I	E	O	S	I	S	D	P	O	T	N
N	H	T	S	L	F	F	D	B	A	R	S	A	N	E
S	A	L	O	N	A	F	A	R	S	H	O	P	M	S
T	A	X	I	H	C	C	O	L	O	O	H	C	S	S

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Agency, Address, Agent, Associations, Bars, Business, Cabs, Café, Cars, Check, City, Company, Consult, Copy, Doctor, Employment, Food, Garage, Government, Gyms, Hairdresser, Help, Home, Hospital, Hotel, Index, Information, Jobs, Kindergarten, Lawyer, List, Local, Maps, Offices, Pages, Parts, Pubs, Radio, Road, Salon, School, Shop, Store, Street, Taxi, Telephone, Tours, Town, Trust. **Yesterday's Answer: Elevator**

To order the new WONDERWORD TREASURY 2: "Memorable Occasions," send check or money order for \$10.95 plus \$3.25 postage and handling (\$14.20 total) to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6754, ext. 6913.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cronies
5 Frenzied
8 Puts on a show
12 Public disturbance
13 In the manner of
14 Foolproof
15 Stench
16 Midafternoon on a sundial
17 Pivot about
18 Lower in status
20 Muffet's bugaboo
22 Continue talking
23 Sugar suffix
24 "Casa-blanca" role
27 Pragmatic types
32 Comedian Philips
33 — Darya
34 Leave slack-jawed
35 "Damn the torpedoes" man

DOWN

1 Incite to action
2 Staffer
3 Appear ominously
4 Talked a blue —
5 Traffic mecca
6 Will Smith biopic
7 Speaker's spot
8 St. Francis' home
9 Dead end
10 Verifiable
11 Prognosticator
19 Commercial
21 D.C. honcho

ACROSS

38 Garbage transport
39 "The Sound of Music" extra
40 With 30-Down, combination punch
42 Excuses
45 Witticism
49 Sites
50 Actress Hagen
52 Tittle
53 Rue the run
54 Cheer-leader's cry
55 Ear-related
56 Females
57 Entertainment
58 Take five

DOWN

24 Gridiron arbiter
25 "— Little Teapot"
26 Road along a coastal cliff
28 Ostrich's cousin
29 High-speed highway
30 See 40-Across
31 Do alterations
36 Red rocks
37 Blackbird
38 Grad-to-be
41 "Fuhgeddaboudit!"
42 Reaction re
43 Yoric Ness, e.g.
44 Turf companion
46 Speck
47 Elevator name
48 Diplomat's sine qua non
51 Greek cross

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	C	M	E	P	A	M	A	B	A	D
C	H	I	N	A	G	O	L	A	L	O
H	A	N	D	I	C	A	P	I	C	O
E	N	D	O	R	S	O	C	K	E	T
W	A	I	L	W	E	N				
J	A	M	S	B	I	L	L	I	D	A
E	M	U	L	I	M	A	S	N	U	S
B	I	L	E	D	I	T	G	E	E	K
L	A	W	T	H	A	I				
G	L	I	N	D	A	D	O	C	K	S
L	U	G	E	S	A	N	D	T	R	A
O	L	A	N	P	R	O	T	O	N	E
B	U	N	T	S	E	W	O	W	E	D

Yesterday's answer 1-8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18				19		20	21			
			22			23				
24	25	26		27	28	29		30	31	
32				33				34		
35			36	37				38		
			39			40	41			
42	43			44	45		46	47	48	
49				50	51		52			
53				54			55			
56				57			58			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY
Ami Dolenz, R. Kelly, David Bowie, Stephen Hawking

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: You will be very convincing this year. Presentation will be the key when it comes to promoting your ideas. Keep the momentum flowing, but don't neglect your family or other personal issues. Balance your life evenly. Your numbers are 10, 23, 30, 33, 42, 46

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Be careful how you handle situations at home. Someone may not be in agreement with the way you are doing things. You may have a chance to rearrange your living quarters. ★★



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Relationship opportunities will be present. Go on a blind date if you are single or do something special with your current lover. Get in touch with someone from your past. ★★★★★



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Don't back away from the chance to move up in the world. Job opportunities are better than you think. You may have to look at your past to decide what you want to do in the future. ★★★★★



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You may find yourself indecisive about personal matters. When in doubt, refrain from doing anything. Time is on your side, so stay calm. ★★



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Thing may not be as they appear, so dig deeper if you want to find out the whole truth. Someone may be trying to protect you from hurt feelings. Money matters can be improved with a few changes. ★★★★★



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Do something about the things that concern you so much. Stop talking and take action. You must use all your connections in order to make things better. ★★★★★



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Someone may listen to your ideas and offer empty promises. Someone is likely to put obstacles in your way, so be prepared to do whatever you must to deal with his or her actions. ★★



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You'll have everything under control today, so get as much done as possible. Romance is likely to come your way if you are single. If you're not, plan something special with your lover. Travel, communication and research look good. ★★★★★



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Make the effort to improve your finances today. Don't take someone else's word for what options you have. Find out for yourself. ★★★★★



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You may have to break the tension today when it comes to your personal relationship. If you haven't been communicating, you may have a lot to explain. Be fair to both yourself and the people around you. ★★★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
The extra effort you take will be noticed and should lead to rewards. Take care of any social situation with diplomacy. You will have the discipline to finish what you start. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You can turn your ideas into reality, even though it will take a bit of a financial risk. This could turn out to be a very romantic day if you are receptive as well as suggestive about your needs and feelings. ★★★★★

BIRTHDAY BABY: You are ambitious and dedicated to any cause you believe in. You are sensitive and quite serious and will do whatever it takes to make your life stable and secure.

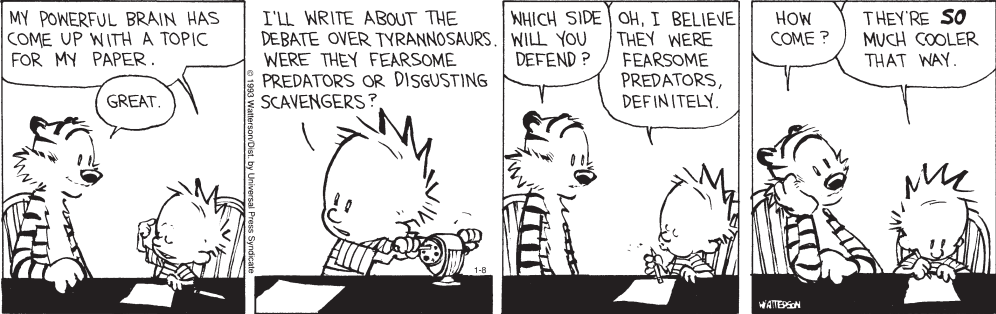
(Need advice? Check out Eugenia on the Web at www.astroadvice.com or www.eugenialast.com.)

Ziggy



Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Watterson



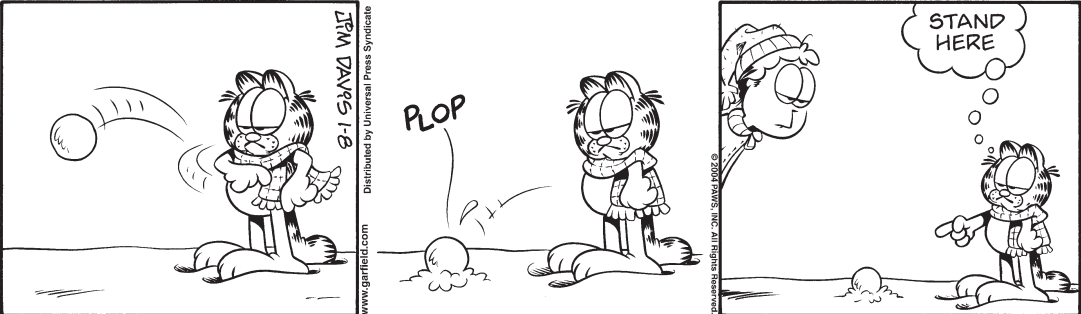
Adam@home

By Brian Basset



Garfield

by Jim Davis



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy





MBL Standings		
Verizon	1	0
Joeten	1	0
NMC Proa	1	1
Preparation Y	1	1
C.K. Legends	0	2

American League

East Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
y- NY Yankees	99	58	.631	-
Boston	91	66	.580	8
Toronto	73	84	.465	26
Baltimore	67	90	.427	32
Tampa Bay	54	103	.344	45

Central Division

y- Minnesota	90	66	.577	-
Chicago Sox	79	78	.503	11.5
Cleveland	70	87	.446	20.5
Kansas City	61	96	.389	29.5
Detroit	54	102	.346	36

West Division

x- Oakland	99	57	.635	-
Anaheim	96	61	.611	3.5
Seattle	90	66	.577	9
Texas	71	86	.452	28.5

National League

East Division

y- Atlanta	97	58	.626	-
Montreal	79	78	.503	19
Philadelphia	79	78	.503	19
Florida	76	81	.484	22
NY Mets	74	82	.474	23.5

Central Division

y- St. Louis	93	64	.592	-
Houston	83	75	.525	10.5
Cincinnati	76	81	.484	17
Pittsburgh	70	87	.446	23
Chicago Cubs	65	92	.414	28
Milwaukee	55	102	.350	38

West Division

Arizona	94	63	.599	-
San Francisco	90	66	.577	3.5
Los Angeles	88	68	.564	5.5
Colorado	72	84	.462	21.5
San Diego	65	91	.417	28.5

y-clinched division title
x-clinched playoff spot

Rotary Standings

Tanapag Warriors	7	0
OIAces	5	2
Dan Dan Sharks	5	3
San Vicente Suns	4	2
G-Rollers	4	4
Gualo Rai Wildcats	3	4
Kagman Cougars	2	4
Susupe Hi-5	1	4
C.K. Hoosiers	0	7

NFL Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

Team	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	1	0	0	1,000	49 21
New England	1	0	0	1,000	30 14
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	1,000	37 31
Buffalo	0	1	0	.000	31 37

South

Houston	1	0	0	1,000	19 10
Indianapolis	1	0	0	1,000	28 25
Tennessee	1	0	0	1,000	27 24
Jacksonville	0	1	0	.000	25 28

North

Baltimore	0	1	0	.000	7 10
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000	6 34
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	39 40
Pittsburgh	0	1	0	.000	14 30

West

Denver	1	0	0	1,000	23 16
Kansas City	1	0	0	1,000	40 39
Oakland	1	0	0	1,000	31 17
San Diego	1	0	0	1,000	34 6

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Washington	1	0	0	1,000	31 23
Dallas	0	1	0	.000	10 19
N.Y. Giants	0	1	0	.000	13 16
Philadelphia	0	1	0	.000	24 27

South

Carolina	1	0	0	1,000	10 7
New Orleans	1	0	0	1,000	26 20
Atlanta	0	1	0	.000	34 37
Tampa Bay	0	1	0	.000	20 26

North

Chicago	1	0	0	1,000	27 23
Green Bay	1	0	0	1,000	37 34
Detroit	0	1	0	.000	21 49
Minnesota	0	1	0	.000	23 27

West

San Francisco	1	0	0	1,000	16 13
Arizona	0	1	0	.000	23 31
Seattle	0	1	0	.000	17 31
St. Louis	0	1	0	.000	16 23

SPORTS BRIEFS



Tan Holdings Corporation



McNabb, Favre overcome tough season

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP SPORTS WRITER



PHILADELPHIA (AP) — They are two quarterbacks with a strong passion for the game, an unrelenting desire to win, a willingness to play through pain, inspiring their teammates through their leadership and courage.

Brett Favre and Donovan McNabb took a similar road to Sunday's showdown between the Philadelphia Eagles (12-4) and Green Bay Packers (11-6), enduring a season filled with injuries, controversy and personal low points.

Favre's Packers needed a miraculous final-second touchdown by Arizona against Minnesota just to get in the playoffs. McNabb's Eagles overcame an awful 0-2 start, and didn't secure the NFC's top seed until lowly Detroit upset St. Louis on the final day of the season.

The perennial Pro Bowl quarterbacks have much in common - except their playing styles - and they'll go at it again with a berth in the NFC championship game at stake.

"To be on the same stage as Brett Favre is exciting for me," McNabb said. "But I'm not going to get caught up in the

whole situation. I'm just going to go out and play my game like we did on Monday night (in November)."

On a rainy night at Lambeau Field two months ago, McNabb upstaged Favre, beating the three-time MVP at his own game in his own back yard. McNabb threw a 17-yard touchdown pass to Todd Pinkston with 27 seconds left for a 17-14 victory.

It was reminiscent of many of Favre's comebacks. But McNabb realizes he has a long way to go to match Favre's accomplishments.

Favre has been to two Super Bowls, winning one; is second to Dan Marino in career TD passes; and ranks among the career leaders in several other categories.

McNabb has led the Eagles to consecutive appearances in the NFC title game, but hasn't reached the Super Bowl.

"Brett Favre is a guy that's obviously a Hall of Famer and has done it for so many years," McNabb said. "Every time he's on the field, everyone has to know exactly what he's doing."

Favre and McNabb are linked by their relationship with Eagles coach Andy Reid, a former Packers assistant. They play in the same West Coast offense, both have strong arms, easygoing personalities and have

earned the respect of their peers and teammates. Both players are more likely to tell a joke in the huddle than chew out a receiver for running the wrong route.

But on the field, McNabb and Favre play a different way.

Favre is more apt to throw into coverage, while McNabb prefers to keep the ball and run. Favre takes chances, putting the ball up for grabs, while McNabb would rather take a sack than risk an interception.

"We all know that Favre goes in with a different attitude than most," McNabb said. "He may try to force balls into different situations. That's something that I obviously stayed away from in my game."

Both are stubborn, refusing to sit out any games no matter the injury. Favre broke his right thumb against St. Louis on Oct. 19, but resisted the medical staff's advice to let it heal. His NFL quarterbacks record of 207 consecutive starts and counting might never be broken.

The closest Favre came to missing a game was last month. His father, Irvin Favre, died of a heart attack one day before the Packers played Oakland on a Monday night.

But Favre wouldn't let his teammates down, leading Green Bay to a 41-7 victory over the Raiders with a classic

performance, throwing for 399 yards - three shy of his career high - and four touchdowns.

"I've got two heroes: my dad and Brett Favre," Packers guard Mike Wahle said afterward. "That was unbelievable what he did."

McNabb has earned similar respect for the way he handled adversity. He had perhaps his best game on a broken ankle against Arizona last season, then sat out the last six regular-season games.

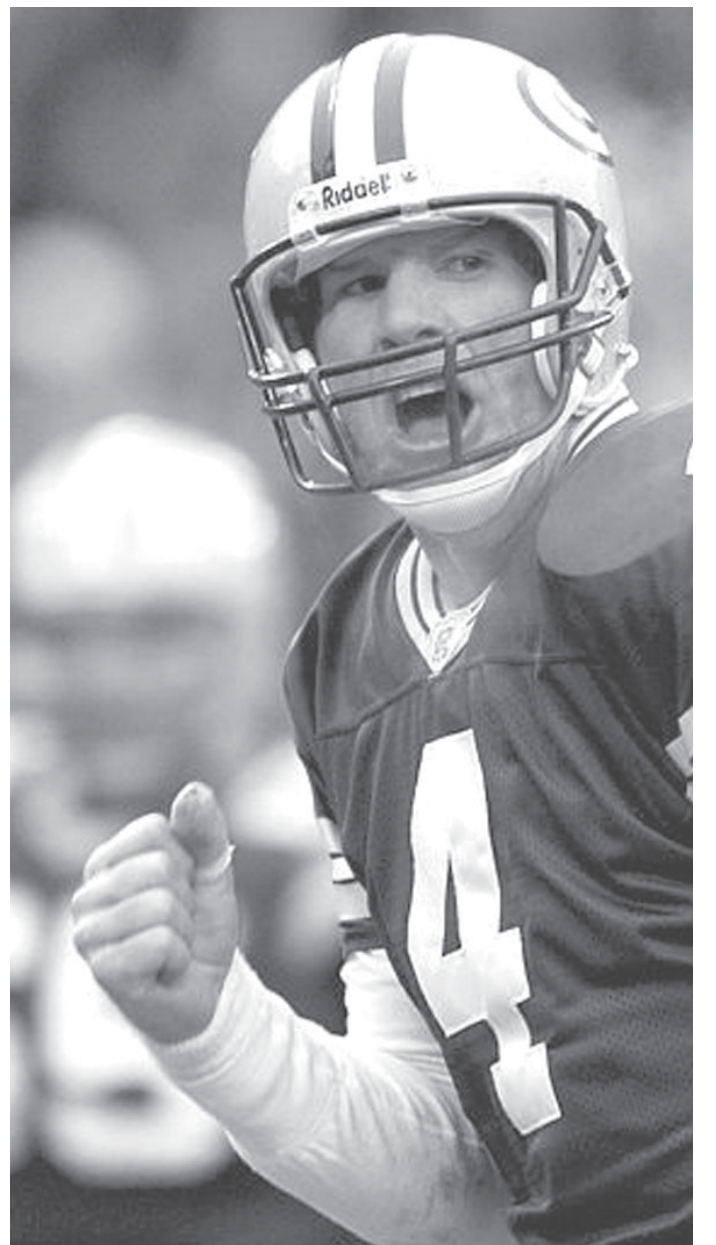
McNabb overcame the worst start of his five-year career this season, playing with a sprained right thumb that affected his grip, and an ankle injury limiting his mobility.

He dealt with the racially charged critique of then-ESPN commentator Rush Limbaugh, who said McNabb was overrated because the media wants to see a black quarterback succeed.

Many fans wanted him benched.

He used it all as motivation, leading the Eagles to nine straight wins, a third consecutive NFC East title, and earned his fourth consecutive Pro Bowl trip.

"He's a great leader," Eagles fullback Jon Ritchie said. "He has a personality that is very powerful. He commands a lot of attention and respect at the same time. He's a great guy to be around. Guys gravitate to him."



Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre reacts after throwing a 23-yard touchdown pass to Bubba Franks in the second quarter of their NFC wild card playoff game against the Seattle Seahawks Sunday, Jan. 4, 2004, in Green Bay, Wis.

KC signs Gonzalez; Alomar to D-Backs

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP SPORTS WRITER



NEW YORK (AP)—Two-time American League MVP Juan Gonzalez agreed Tuesday to a contract with Kansas City, and Roberto Alomar accepted a deal with Arizona for a huge payout.

Gonzalez is guaranteed \$4.5 million by the Royals. Kansas City general manager Allard Baird isn't worried about the durability of the 34-year-old outfielder.

"I went out to Arizona and watched him work out for two days," Baird said. "I think he's in great shape... and I feel very comfortable with him being ready to go."

Gonzalez, a three-time All-Star, played in 82 games last year for Texas, hitting .294 with 24 homers and 70 RBIs before a calf injury ended his season.

The outfielder gets \$4 million this season, and the deal includes a mutual option for 2005 at \$7 million. If the Royals decline the option, Gonzalez would receive a \$500,000 buyout. In addition, he can earn \$2 million in performance bonuses this year and \$1.5 million in 2005.

Alomar, a 12-time All-Star at second base, is guaranteed just \$1 million by Arizona, and \$350,000 of that is deferred



Texas Rangers' Juan Gonzalez follows through on a hit to left field in the sixth inning off the Florida Marlins, Saturday June 14, 2003, at The Ballpark in Arlington, Texas.

without interest until 2009. The agreement does not contain any performance bonuses.

"Money wasn't the issue," said Alomar, coming off a \$37 million, five-year deal that paid him \$8 million last year. "If money would have been the issue, then I would go someplace else. I just wanted to be in a good environment, with good people and with a good team that has a chance to win. I think the Diamondbacks were the answer."

Alomar, 35, hit .336 with 20 homers and 100 RBIs in 2001 with Cleveland, then was traded to the Mets. He hit .266 in 2002 with New York, his lowest average since his rookie season

in 1988, then batted .262 with two homers and 22 RBIs last year before the Mets dealt him to Chicago on July 1. He hit .253 for the White Sox with three homers and 17 RBIs.

"If I can get in good shape, I think I can play the way I used to play," the 10-time Gold Glove winner said.

Meanwhile, San Diego acquired former All-Star third baseman Jeff Cirillo from Seattle along with right-hander Brian Sweeney and \$4,775,000 for right-hander Kevin Jarvis, catcher Wiki Gonzalez, infielder Dave Hansen and minor league outfielder Vince Faison.

Cirillo, 34, hit just .205

with two homers and 23 RBIs last season. He blocked a deal last month that would have sent him to the Mets for outfielder Roger Cedeno.

Not only do the Padres get some badly needed depth in Cirillo, who grew up in Southern California, but they were able to dump Jarvis and Gonzalez, who flopped after signing long-term deals.

"I'm just appreciative of Kevin Towers taking this chance on me," Cirillo said. "I don't think they will be disappointed. The last two years have been a nightmare for me in a lot of different ways. I don't know if I'm the .320 hitter that I was in Milwaukee, but I can guarantee I'm not the .205 hitter I was last year. I'm very grateful to the Padres."

Outfielder Bubba Trammell, who became a free agent last month when the players' association settled his grievance against the New York Yankees, agreed to a \$1.85 million, one-year contract with Los Angeles. The Dodgers will pay the \$300,000 minimum, with the rest coming from the settlement.

Trammell was put on the restricted list June 30, with the Yankees saying the move was made because he left the team without permission due to unspecified personal reasons. He hit .200 with five RBIs in 55 at-bats with New York.

Angels' ace tests positive for steroids

By **ROB GLOSTER**
AP SPORTS WRITER

Anaheim Angels reliever Derrick Turnbow, the first major leaguer to test positive for a banned steroid, faces a two-year ban from international competition but will not face any sanctions from Major League Baseball.

Turnbow, a right-hander with a 98 mph fastball, went 2-0 with 15 strikeouts in 15 1-3 innings after a Sept. 1 callup from the minors last season. He flunked the drug test during a U.S. Olympic training camp in October.

Turnbow told his agent, Jeff Borris, that the positive drug test was the result of an over-the-counter dietary supplement. The Major League Baseball Players Association said Tuesday that Turnbow did not use anything players with big league contracts are prohibited from using.

The case points once again to the dichotomy between strict international doping rules and those of baseball and

other U.S. professional sports.

"International athletes are held to much higher standards than Major League Baseball, which has a program that has very little muscle at all," said Dick Pound, chairman of the World Anti-Doping Agency and a harsh critic of baseball's drug policies.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency said Tuesday that Turnbow tested positive Oct. 7 in Tempe, Ariz., for "a steroid violation, which resulted from taking nandrolone, norandrostenedione or norandrostenediol." All three of those substances are performance-enhancing steroids, the agency said in a statement.

Gene Orza, associate general counsel of the Major League Baseball Players Association, said Turnbow had tested positive for androstenedione - the over-the-counter supplement popularized by Mark McGwire during his chase of the home run record in 1998. Andro is now banned in the minor leagues, but is not regulated in the major leagues.

Sprewell leads Timberwolves over injury-depleted Lakers



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Latrell Sprewell scored 30 points while keeping Kobe Bryant in check, and the Minnesota Timberwolves sent the struggling and injury-plagued Los Angeles Lakers to a 106-90 loss Tuesday night.

Shaquille O'Neal sat out his second straight game with a strained right calf, and the Lakers have been missing Karl Malone for more than two weeks because of a sprained right knee.

They were sorely missed. Los Angeles lost for the seventh time in 10 games, and Bryant had only six of his 20 points in the second half.

Minnesota's two other stars gave Sprewell plenty of support. Kevin Garnett had 26 points and 18 rebounds, and Sam Cassell scored 19 of his 26 points in the first half.

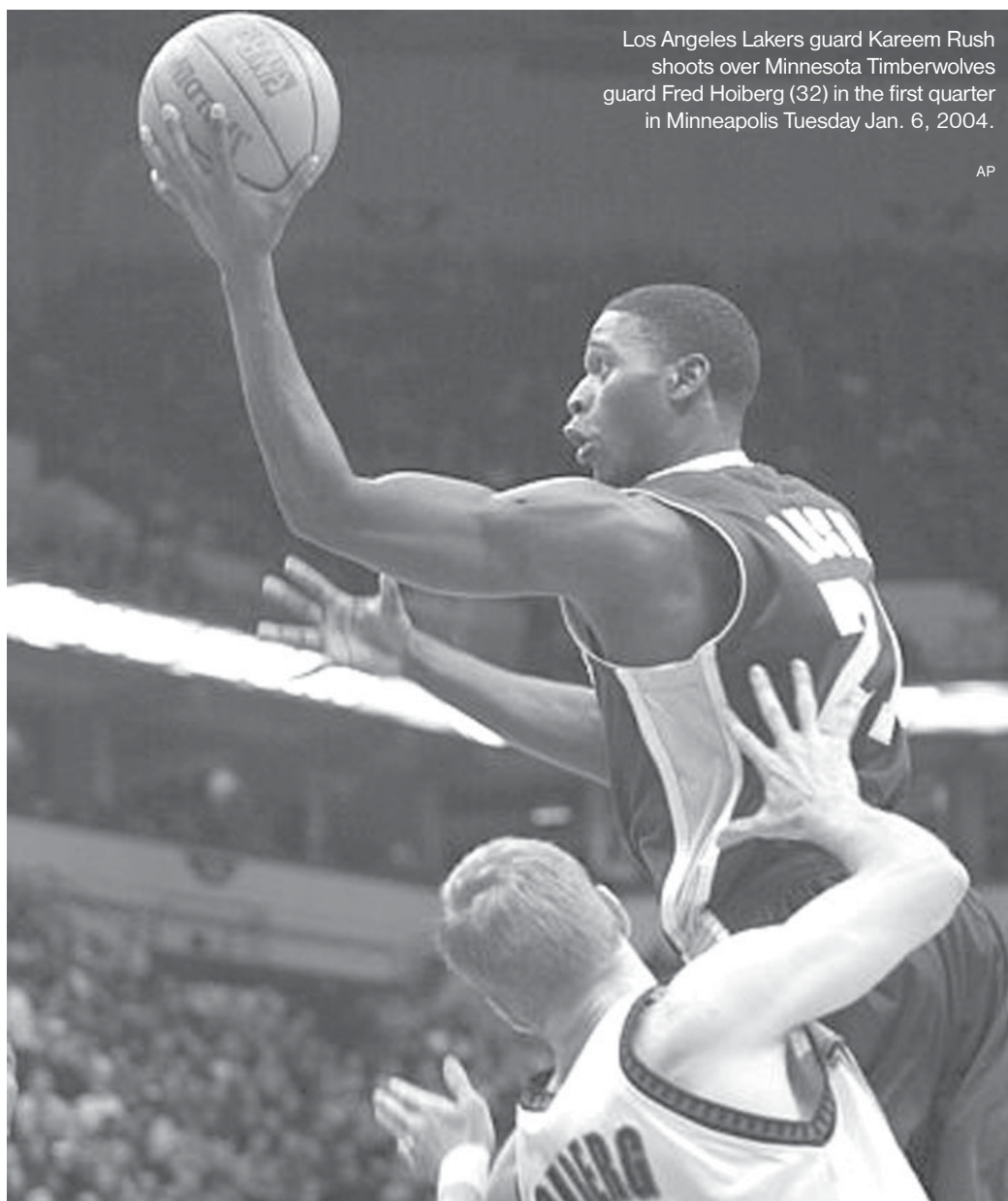
Cavaliers 107, Knicks 96

In Cleveland, Stephon Marbury didn't do much for the new-look Knicks after being cleared to play just 30 minutes before tipoff, and LeBron James' 10 assists and Zydrunas Ilgauskas' 24 points led the Cavaliers over New York.

Marbury, traded from Phoenix to New York along with Penny Hardaway a day earlier, had eight points and eight assists in the Knicks' third straight loss.

James had 14 points on a poor shooting night, but his assists tied his career high. Eric Williams hit baskets at several key points and finished with 22.

For much of the game, New York resembled a team that hadn't practiced together. Hardaway shot just 3-for-9 for six points. Keith Van Horn led New York with 20 points and Allan Houston had 18.



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kareem Rush shoots over Minnesota Timberwolves guard Fred Hoiberg (32) in the first quarter in Minneapolis Tuesday Jan. 6, 2004.

AP

points, helped hold them off with seven points down the stretch, including a fast-break dunk that made it 114-103 with less than a minute to play.

Spurs 94, Wizards 72

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan and Tony Parker grabbed 16 points each as San Antonio outshot an opponent from the free throw line for the first time in 13 games to beat Washington.

The win was the Spurs' 15th in the past 16 games, while the Wizards lost for the 13th time in their past 16.

San Antonio went 12-for-15 on foul shots, its best percentage at the line since early November. The Wizards were 17-of-31 (54.8 percent) from the line.

Ron Mercer matched his season high with 14 points for the Spurs. Gilbert Arenas, with 17 points, was the only member of the Wizards to reach double-digits.

Kings 105, Hawks 89

In Sacramento, California, Peja Stojakovic scored 28 points and Brad Miller had 20 points and 10 rebounds in Sacramento's fourth straight victory.

Mike Bibby had 19 points and six assists for the Kings, who improved the NBA's best record to 24-8 with their 26th consecutive home win over Eastern Conference teams. Sacramento increased its Pacific Division lead over the Lakers to a season-high 2 1/2.

Doug Christie had 13 points, six rebounds and six assists as the Kings struggled to put away the Hawks despite a superior statistical game. Sacramento had 33 assists and just nine turnovers while improving to an NBA-best 18-2 at home, but the Kings' starters were forced back into the game in the final minutes after Atlanta cut a 24-point deficit to 11.

Nets 92, Clippers 75

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Jason Kidd had his second straight 30-plus point game and Nets held Los Angeles to a season-low 28 first-half points.

Kenyon Martin and Corey Maggette were ejected after exchanging punches in the third quarter, and both face automatic suspensions.

The players fought after Martin committed a hard foul on Maggette on a drive to the basket. Maggette shoved Martin to the court, and Martin got up

and went after Maggette.

No one else was involved in the fracas, which detracted from a 32-point night by Kidd as he shot 13-of-20 from the field. The Nets gave an outstanding defensive effort in their 13th win in 16 games and fourth straight.

Pacers 114, Magic 107

In Indianapolis, Jermaine O'Neal had 25 points, nine rebounds and four blocks to help Indiana overcome a 43-point performance by Tracy McGrady.

McGrady made eight 3-pointers and shot 14-of-27, but he didn't have the support O'Neal had for Indiana. O'Neal was one of six Pacers in double figures as they won their sixth in a row.

The 114 points were a season high for the Eastern Conference-leading Pacers, who also got a little payback for an embarrassing home loss to the Magic on Dec. 17, 2003.

The Magic got as close as seven in the final period on Rod Strickland's layup with 7:38 to play. Ron Artest, who scored 23

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	20	14	.588	-
Boston	17	19	.472	4
Philadelphia	15	19	.441	5
Miami	14	20	.412	6
New York	14	22	.389	7
Washington	9	23	.281	10
Orlando	8	27	.229	12 1/2

Central Division

Indiana	27	10	.730	-
Detroit	22	13	.629	4
New Orleans	21	13	.618	4 1/2
Toronto	17	15	.531	7 1/2
Milwaukee	18	16	.529	7 1/2
Chicago	11	23	.324	14 1/2
Cleveland	11	23	.324	14 1/2
Atlanta	10	26	.278	16 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

San Antonio	24	11	.686	-
Minnesota	22	11	.667	1
Dallas	19	14	.576	4
Houston	19	14	.576	4
Denver	20	15	.571	4
Utah	18	16	.529	5 1/2
Memphis	17	17	.500	6 1/2

Pacific Division

Sacramento	24	8	.750	-
L.A. Lakers	21	10	.677	2
Seattle	17	15	.531	6 1/2
Portland	15	17	.469	8 1/2
L.A. Clippers	14	17	.452	9
Golden State	14	19	.424	10
Phoenix	12	23	.343	13

Memphis at Portland, Postponed due to snow

By Associated Press

Martin, Maggette ejected for fighting

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Kenyon Martin of the Nets and Corey Maggette of the Clippers exchanged punches and were ejected in the third quarter of the Los Angeles-New Jersey game on Tuesday night.

Martin grabbed Maggette by the hands as he drove under the basket with 7:08 left with the Nets ahead 60-34. As the whistle was blown for a foul, Maggette shoved Martin to the floor under the Los Angeles basket.

Martin jumped up and grabbed Maggette under the neck. Maggette threw a right at Martin, who retaliated with a left-handed punch.

Each player threw one more punch before being separated.

After a short meeting among the officials, both players were ejected.

Under NBA rules, throwing a punch brings an automatic suspension of at least one game.

No. 1 Connecticut escapes Rutgers, 75-74

By JIM O'CONNELL
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



PISCATAWAY, N.J. (AP)—Playing with four fouls, Ben Gordon scored eight of his 22 points over the final 4 1/2 minutes and top-ranked Connecticut barely hung on to beat Rutgers 75-74 Tuesday night.

The Huskies (12-1, 1-0 Big East) won their ninth straight game despite the far-from-dominating performance.

Rutgers (7-4, 0-2) was impressive on the offensive boards, wasn't rattled by Connecticut's tough inside defense and led 65-63 with 4:43 to go on a basket by Herve Lamizana.

Gordon, who picked up his fourth foul with 7:30 to play, then hit a 3-pointer to give the Huskies the lead for good at 66-65. He added two free throws with 4:09 left and jumper down low with 3:35 to play to cap his personal 7-0 run and give Connecticut a five-point lead.

A driving jumper by Charlie

Villanueva with 2:20 left gave Connecticut a 72-66 lead, but the Scarlet Knights were far from done.

Quincy Douby's drive with 18 seconds left - Rutgers' first field goal in 4:25 - made it 74-72. Freshman Marcus Williams made the second of two free throws with 16 seconds to go - his only point of the game - and Connecticut had a three-point lead.

Rutgers called a timeout with 10 seconds left, and a poor inbounds pass after it caused a scramble near midcourt that

turned into Gordon's fifth foul.

Ricky Shields made two free throws with 7 seconds left and when Connecticut inbounded the ball three players were able to touch it without being fouled and the clock ran out.

Emeka Okafor had 21 points, 16 rebounds and six blocked shots for Connecticut, while Villanueva had 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Lamizana had 20 points and Shields added 19 for Rutgers, which was outrebounded 53-40 overall but had a 20-17 advantage



SPORTS BRIEFS

MOLITOR

From Page 28



**Christmas
Camp a
success**

Christmas Camp at Camp Hyatt proved to be a ball for kids and a boon for their parents.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

**McNabb, Favre
overcome
tough season**

They are two quarterbacks with a strong passion for the game, an unrelenting desire to win, a willingness to play through pain, inspiring their teammates through their leadership and courage.

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